

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ERA NATIONAL BOARD OF ADVISORS
Sunday, April 29, 2007, at Holiday Inn Portland Airport, Portland, Oregon

The ERA business meeting was called to order at 7:15 AM.

The following board members were in attendance: Mike Schroeder, Alan Melton, Dan Smith, Henry Henke, Larry Hagemeister, Kenny Turner, Mike Dietrich, Ronnie Charnes, Bob Wagner, Dennis Jacinto, Richard Vensel, Wes Grueninger, Joe Davis, Blaine White, Jerry Keiffer, Ken Plourde, Jim Talsma, Chris Galbreath, and Bob Thomas. The following ERA general members also attended the meeting: Jim Thomas, Daren Roggentien, Joe Bradish, Harald Kober, Bob Hawes, Nick Staub, Paul Lavoie, Thomas Barrett and Casey Barrett.

The first item on the agenda was the treasurer's report. In Chris Thompson's absence, Mike Schroeder reported that as of 24 April, the checking account balance was \$27,753 with an additional \$51,270.50 invested in four certificates of deposit that mature annually at three month intervals. He stated that he expects the balance to drop over the summer months but then increase in the fall, because eight seminars are scheduled from September 7 through November 16. He also noted most show expenses were paid prior to the preparation of the report.

Next Bob Thomas reported on membership. He said current membership stands at 492 and noted this reflects a net loss of 21 members over the last 12 months. He said 64 new members have joined since the 2006 show, while 85 have not renewed. When asked why so many have not renewed, he stated that there seems to be many reasons. He agreed some have simply closed up shop, but many more have just decided against renewal. He said that a survey by regional vice presidents came up with little helpful information. He said the North East region had a net loss of 14, South East 7, Canada 3, and the North Central 2, while the South Central region had a net gain of 7 and north-west a net gain of 3. Bob said the loss of members is the greatest challenge facing the association.

Mike Schroeder asked Joe Davis to report briefly on the seminars. Joe noted that 60 had attended the show seminar, and that the new Friday evening class had been well received. He also said the Saturday seminar structure had been changed slightly to make it easier for attendees to retain the information. Joe emphasized that new information is being added on a weekly basis.

Next, Membership Chairman Jerry Kieffer presented a draft of an ERA newsletter and proposed it be mailed to all members several times a year. He suggested the newsletter could be helpful in reaching out to members who don't use the web site. Discussion centered on what should be included in the newsletter. Among the suggested ideas were ERA news, schedule and advertising of upcoming events, advertising for new technical resources, promotion to increase use of the web site and a technical tip good enough to be worth keeping. It was suggested that the color of paper be kept the same for each issue, making them stand out and easy to find on a cluttered desk. Jerry's draft was on green paper and everyone liked that. It was also suggested they be pre-punched to fit in a binder. Bob Wagner suggested using non-profit mailing to save on postage. Following the discussion it was decided to proceed with the newsletter. Ronnie

Charnes requested that someone notify Polly in advance and assure her the publication is just a newsletter for members and not competition for the *Electrical Rebuilder's Exchange*. Dan Smith said he would see to that.

Wes Grueninger reported on the services he has been providing, including additions to the web site, the ERA web services program, and work on the generator DVD. He said about 100 members are using the web site regularly and he is not sure why so many others are not taking advantage of such a resourceful tool. Some speculated that many do not have a computer with Internet access in their shop. Others just don't seem to realize the value. It was suggested that a good Forum thread could be used as the tech tip for the newsletter, to show examples of what can be found there, giving computer non-users a taste of web site information. Wes said he had eight members who showed interest in the web design package at the show. He said he had hoped to have the generator DVD ready for the show, but there was simply not enough time to finish both the DVD and web design package. He finished the web services package first feeling it would be more useful to members.

Next, Mike Schroeder spoke briefly about two bylaws amendments proposed by the Board of Directors. The first pertained to a provision for absentee voting for Board of Advisors members unable to attend the annual meeting. Bob Thomas explained that the subject of absentee voting came up about six weeks before the meeting and he realized there were no provisions in the bylaws. Wes Grueninger reminded everyone that the bylaws state that Robert's Rules of Orders will be followed, and noted that any absentee voting must conform to those rules. Many questioned how absentee voting would even be possible when nominations for officers can be made from the floor just prior to the election. There was much debate with the majority of those present feeling that attendance at the meeting should be a requirement to vote. When it became obvious that the amendment would not pass as it was written, everyone agreed to return it to the Board of Directors.

The second amendment concerned the office of President. It stated that the following be added to Section V, Role and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors, President:
"Shall remain as a non-voting member of the Executive Board"

Several questions about this amendment came up, including why have someone on the board if they cannot vote? Bob Thomas explained that under the bylaws the President does not vote unless there is the need to break a tie and he mentioned that in four years, Mike Schroeder had never had to vote. Others questioned the need to have a past president at the meetings but most accepted that the provision would add a dimension of experience to the board that would be lost if the past president was not given the opportunity to participate. This amendment was passed by unanimous vote.

The election of officers was the last item on the agenda. Nominations Committee Chairman Alan Melton first mentioned the names of those who served on the committee: Wendy Green, Colson Auto Electric, Largo, FL; Mike Vernon, VeeCo Generator & Starter, Memphis, TN and Aaron Tobin, Global Remanufacturing, Roseville, MI, each a rebuilder member in good standing.

Alan then presented the following slate of officers:

President - Jim Thomas, Smith Auto Electric, Yakima, WA

Secretary - Jody Nava, Alternator & Starter Repair, Sarasota, FL

Second VP - Dan Smith, Boston Auto Electric, Boston, MA

North Central VP - Aaron Tobin, Global Remanufacturing, Roseville, MI

South Central VP, Kenny Turner, CC Battery Corpus Christi, TX

South East VP - Scott Fureman, Hank's Truck & Electric, Mt Dora, FL

Mike Schroeder officiated over the election and both Scott Fureman and Kenny Turner were elected unopposed after nominations were called for from the floor. When nominations were called on from the floor for North Central Vice President, Ronnie Charnes nominated Hank Henke and it was seconded. At that time, the officiating officer requested that three members volunteer to collect, count and tally the ballots. Joe Davis, Chris Galbreath and Kenny Turner were chosen to serve in that capacity. Bob Thomas was asked to hand out the blank slips of paper to those who were current members of the board of advisors. The election by secret ballot was held with the following results: Hank Henke 14 votes, Aaron Tobin 4 votes. Hank was declared the winner and will continue as North Central Vice President.

Next Dan Smith was elected Second Vice President unopposed after no nominations came from the floor. When nominations were called on from the floor for Secretary, Joe Davis nominated Joe Bradish and it was seconded. An election was then held by secret ballot with the following results: Joe Bradish 17 votes, Jody Nava 1 vote.

When nominations were called from the floor for President, Wes Grueninger nominated Mike Schroeder and it was seconded. At that time Alan Melton took over as officiating officer and both Jim Thomas and Mike Schroeder left the room. After a lengthy discussion, an election for president was held by secret ballot with the following results: Jim Thomas 12 votes, Mike Schroeder 7

Following the final election, Jim Thomas became the officiating officer, and as his first act as president, presented Mike Schroeder with a plaque from the association in recognition of his service and commitment. Larry Hagemeister then presented both Jim and Mike with ERA jackets like those given away as hourly prizes at the ERA booth during the show.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Thomas, secretary