

The Minn-Stf Board Meeting Minutes for the Meeting of 21 August 1997 at the home of Eileen Lufkin Where Burning Sappho Loved And Sang And Stroked the Wine-Dark Sea in the Temple by the Moonlight Wah Dæ Doo Dah...

Attending: Dean Gahlon, Polly Peterson, Martin Schafer, and Geri Sullivan (The Minn-Stf Board Members Five Minus One); Fred A. Levy Haskell (Official Happy Deadwood & Recording Secretary); James M. Young (Minn-Stf Floundering Father, Minicon Chairman Emeritus, Feelthy Pro, and Fan About Town); and Karen Cooper, David Dyer-Bennet, Beth Friedman, Susan Levy Haskell, and Lydia Nickerson (Interested Parties). Eileen Lufkin (Our Gracious Hostess) was in and out, as usual.

Not Attending: Margo Bratton (The Other Minn-Stf Board Member) wasn't there (no one knows why).

Hey, we caused the meeting to Come to Order around 7:30 PM again. Huzzah!

Agenda

- Recording Secretary Report.
- By-Laws.
- Board Minutes in *RUNE*.
- Finances/Taxes.
- Update on Minicon 32 Financials.
- Survey.
- *RUNE* Press.
- Update on The High-Resolution Minicon 34 Proposal.

Business

1) Recording Secretary Report.

Fred: Sorry the Minutes for the last few meetings are real, real late. I'll have them out Real Soon Now. It's been such a long exposition....


2) By-Laws.

Martin: Sorry, I don't have the rewritten By-Law changes. I'll have them for our next meeting.

Dean: *Please* have the By-Laws rewrites done by the next Board meeting, Martin—we need to *act* on this now. I know you're going to be a bit busy in the coming month, but I don't want it put off for another year, and I don't want to pull the rules change on people at the last minute.

3) Board Minutes in *RUNE*.

The Board Expresses A Preference:

 *Tom, please put recent minutes in RUNE instead of ancient minutes. This is especially important since there's a lot going on right now. The older minutes can be put on the Minn-Stf Web Page; and, after the recent minutes are allotted space in RUNE, as many of the older minutes as will fit may be printed or summarized....*



4) Finances/Taxes.

Geri: Taxes *were* filed on the 15th—the deadline. We have a bill from Judy Gallas; it would be a Good Thing if we could pay it before the end of the month. Really. Please pay it quickly, since Minn-Stf has a history of paying her late. I'm serious about this. We need to pay her soon.

Judy gave us three copies of the tax forms and her Recommendations for Accounting Procedures; one copy went to Julie (Minn-Stf Treasurer), one to the Minn-Stf Archives, and one to Fred (OHD&RC). The Recommendations will be shown in *Attachment 070821a* to these Minutes; the tax form copy Fred received will be passed on to the Minn-stf Archives.

5) Update on Minicon 2 Financials.

Geri: We need to do an update on the financial status of Minicon 2.

Jim Young: The books are now closed on Minicon 2. We made about \$23.

Geri: Oh! Did I say "2"?

All: Yes!

Geri: Sorry. I *meant* to say "32"!

6) Update on Minicon 32 Financials.

Geri: It seems that bills are still coming in—we recently received bills from the Sofitel and from Jeff Berry. (One of things on Jeff's bill is \$26 for an unopened copy FileMaker Pro. This seems curious for a number of reasons.)

The total loss now looks like \$4,500–\$5,000. But who knows where it will all end?
When will the books be closed on Minicon 29, by the way?

Polly: All other accounts are now closed. I have the records for Minicon 29, but they're not *formally* closed out yet.

Lydia: Any idea why Minicon 32 lost money? And so *much* money, at that?

Martin: No single reason—

- There seems to be less registration income than we might have expected.
- \$4,500 or \$4,000 for *Jump Start*.
- \$2,000 for Ops for CPR.
- NASA double airline tickets
- Nickel and dime.

Geri: Here's an example of the problems with the Minicon 32 accounting—Mark doesn't report the approximately \$1,000 reimbursement he paid in cash for supplies for the Minneapolis in '73 Suite. He has the pink slip, so there's some documentation, but rather than showing the "cash flow in" from various receipts and the "cash flow out" to the Minneapolis in '73 Suite supplies on the summary report, he simply reduced the "cash flow in" line item by the amount paid out for supplies.

Also, the \$1,000 out as "seed money" for cash registers seems to have been looked at as "income" by departments.

You know, we're looking at the basic truth of the records—anything other than a casual inspection raises unanswerable questions.

Remember, though: we're all human. And there was no proofreading and no oversight. So let's not beat up on Mark.

Also, it looks like there was wholesale handing out of memberships at the door, which wasn't his fault..

7) Survey

Geri: We've received about 40 back out of about 400 people on the *Einblatt* mailing list. That's about 10%. *Geri hands out printed copy of most web responses, but doesn't have any of the written responses in reproducible form yet.*

Martin: Maybe we could have a reminder in *Einblatt*. Or two weeks after *Einblatt* comes out, we could contact people.

Geri: And we need to come up with the *Einblatt* mailing list, and compare it against the people submitting surveys. I'm not sure everyone who's replied electronically is on the *Einblatt* list or can be considered to be club members. We may need to consider how we treat those responses. And we need to see who's on the list who hasn't yet responded.

Martin: I suggest the list of names go to Board. Maybe we should consider input from people not on the mailing list as "also heard from" or something.

Geri: I'd like us to do phone call reminders, to ensure the widest possible response.

Martin: Who's going to do the calling?

Lydia: I'll do some calling.

Beth: I can call a short list.

Karen: I can call a short list, too.


8) RUNE Press

Karen: I picked up *Jump Start* at Minicon. It said "Timberwolf Press." Shouldn't anything that Minn-Stf or Minicon pays for or publishes carry the "RUNE Press" imprint? Also, the Diversicon program book had an ad for *TotU* which gave the Diversicon P.O. Box for contact information. The ad *didn't* say it was a publication of Minn-Stf and didn't mention Minn-Stf in any other way; there was, however, a very small "RUNE Press" slug. It pretty much looked like SF Minnesota was the sponsoring organization of *TotU*.

Polly: I'll talk to Eric and tell him to be more careful to mention Minn-Stf in *TotU* and ads for it.

Karen: I think there should be an official policy that *everything* Minn-Stf publishes and pays for should say "RUNE Press" and mention Minn-Stf.

The Board Rules:

 *Karen's right about this, damnit.*

Dean: *Jump Start* was announced as being intended for multi-year distribution. Did they print up more copies than they distributed this year? If so, where are they?

Martin: And where are the plates?

Answer: *No one at the meeting knows...*

Geri: Remember that subsequent runs could be smaller, since it only has to be distributed to people who didn't get them this year.

9) Update on The High-Resolution Minicon 34 Proposal.

Geri: What we've done so far: We were going to talk to specific set of people. We started doing that, and started getting back responses. Then somebody mentioned it on Minicon-L, so lots of people now know about it. People are talking. We're a bit surprised by the number of early responses that seem to be very much in favor of the proposal, although there are a few negative responses as well. Let me read one of each—from Andy Murphy and from Patrick Nielsen Hayden. (She does so. They are shown in *Attachment 980821b* to these Minutes.)

NOTE: Anne K. Gay also sent a message to the Board about Minicon, completely unsolicited, on 23 July 1997. This message is shown in Attachment 980821c to these Minutes. —falh

Lydia: We talked with Don Blyly just before coming over. He had quickly pulled together a written response of about four pages so we could bring it along to the Board meeting. We haven't had time to completely digest it, but one thing we noticed is it seems he is concerned that we're attacking media fans, and doesn't think this is good.

Board: When is the Exec Selection Committee meeting again?

Martin: Monday.

Board: When can we expect a recommendation?

Martin: I expect a decision before the next Board meeting. We will inform Board members of the decision before the meeting. The Board may want to put off the actual decision until October.

Tentative Agenda Items:

- By-Laws!
- Further consideration of Minicon proposals—need discussion, also recommendation.
- Other.

...dissolve to discussion at 9:00 PM...

Submitted by,

Fred A. Levy Haskell
Official Happy Deadwood &
Recording Secretary, Minn=Stf