

The Minn-Stf Board Meeting Minutes for the Meeting of 17 April 1997, at the home of Eileen Lufkin

Attending: Margo Bratton, Dean Gahlon, Polly Peterson, Martin Schafer, and Geri Sullivan (Da Board); Fred A. Levy Haskell (Official Happy Deadwood & Recording Secretary); and Ron Searby and Don Bailey (Other Interested Parties).

The meeting was never actually Called to Order, but it was never really all that disorderly, so I guess that's all right. Things really got rolling right around 8:00 PM, once everybody was there.

Those of us who were there before everyone had arrived amused ourselves by trying to remember the current officers, as selected at the previous Board meeting. We came up with:

Minn-Stf Officers

President	Scott Raun
Vice President.....	Michael Pins
Vice President/Data Processing (VPDP)	Laurel Krahn
Executive Vice President	Steven K.Z. Brust
Official Happy Deadwood & Recording Secretary	Fred A. Levy Haskell
Membership Secretary	Laura Krentz
Treasurer	Julie Johnson
Corresponding Secretary	Kay Drache ¹
<i>EINBLATT</i> Editor	David Dyer-Bennet
<i>RUNE</i> Editor	Tom Juntunen ²
<i>TotU</i> Editor	Eric Heideman
Hotline	Marianne Hageman
Botanist Elect	Kim Huett ³
Board of Directors	Margo Bratton, Dean Gahlon, Polly Peterson, Martin Schafer, and Geri Sullivan

Other Old Business

RUNE issue expected by October. Tom is editor. Status of other previous co-editors unknown, Geri will look into it.

David Emerson has received a check for \$70 owed him for some ReinCONation expenses.

¹ There seems to be some discussion about Corresponding Secretary, but at the moment it looks like Kay still has the position.

² Geri is checking to find out whether Tom is the sole editor, or if Jeff Schalles and/or Garth Danielson and/or Ken Fletcher are still Co-Editors....

³ The Board has asked Aussie Fan Kim Huett to serve as Minn-stf Botanist; he has yet to reply to the invitation.



Discussion of title for Kim Huett. Suggestions I can remember at this point: Portfolio without Minister; Portfolio without Ambassador; Australian Sex something-or-other; Blue (immediately amended to "Bruce," since we already have a Blue so that might get confusing); Botanist. Botanist prevails—the reasoning is left as an exercise for the reader, since it is Well Known that fans like mysteries and puzzles. Geri will write and offer the position to Kim.

Does the club still need a Quartermaster? No, since the storage locker is now the responsibility of Minicon, who will appoint its own Quartermaster. (See "Computer Policy" discussion below.)

Agenda

- 1) Who gets a copy of the Board Minutes?
- 2) Minneapolis in '73 party funds for WisCon.
- 3) Use of the Board email bounce/reflector/whatever (board@mnstf.org).
- 4) Changing voting eligibility rules.
- 5) By-Laws (added during discussion):
 - a) The by-laws have some minor flaws and need to be tweaked.
 - b) Under the current by-laws, the Minicon 33 Exec is not yet Official.
- 6) Don Bailey Encourages the Board to develop a Computer Policy.
- 7) Minicon:
 - a) Fred's suggestion
 - b) Jeff Berry
 - c) Messages on Minicon-L
 - d) Survey
 - e) Minicon 32 Status Report from the Exec
 - f) Other

New Business

- 1) **Who gets a copy of the Board Minutes?**

Fred asked. Polly will send him a list of who, in addition to the Board and the Officers, gets copies of the minutes. Not all have email, so Fred will have to track postage and costs and stuff....

- 2) **Minneapolis in '73 party funds for WisCon.**

Geri was authorized by the Board to get check for \$73.19 from Treasurer Julie so she (Geri) can throw a Minneapolis in '73 party at this year's WisCon. If for some reason she doesn't or isn't able to throw said party at said convention, she will return said \$73.19 to said Treasurer Julie. What she said.

- 3) **Use of the Board email bounce/reflector/whatever (board@mnstf.org).**

Brief discussion, resulting in the consensus that it's okay to tell people not on the board that it exists and what it is, but remind them to only use it for Official Business or something. Please don't flood us.

- 4) **Changing voting eligibility rules.**

The Board perused the by-laws to see how it now stands.

It's determined that an official meeting (or whatever it's called in the by-laws) are those on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month as announced in *EINBLATT* plus the annual Pool Party and New Year's Eve

Party.

Currently people are eligible to vote after attending 7 meetings in the previous year, which can be official meetings or Minicon open meetings.

Dean suggested counting Minicon open meetings as 1/2 a meeting for purposes of voting eligibility.

Fred suggested counting Minicon open meetings as an irrational number of meetings for purposes of voting eligibility.

There was then the question and discussion of what “has requested membership” means. Apparently, it was historically meant to circumvent awkwardness about little children and Snuffy Wuffy Poo. Dean resolved the question neatly by noting that in the past we’ve considered submitting a ballot to mean requesting membership....


Dean almost wants to say social meeting or special meeting of the members (whatever that means—this is all my notes say on this point).

Geri argued against this (whatever it was).

The Board ultimately supported Geri’s argument.

More discussion.

Final decision, and new champion, by unanimous decision of the Board:

 *Voting eligibility consists of attending 7 previously eligible meetings during the year, of which at least 3 must be official Minn-Stf meetings.*

5) By-Laws

It was discovered, in the course of the previous discussion, that

- a) The by-laws have some minor flaws and need to be tweaked, and**
- b) Under the current by-laws, the Minicon 33 Exec is not yet Official**

a) Martin Schafer and Don Bailey volunteered to be the “By-Law Committee.” They are charged with reviewing the by-laws; pointing out any stupidities, errors, or procedural gaffes; and suggesting appropriate revisions. They will report back to the Board. No deadline was put in place.

b) Discussion of whether the Board ought to make Martin Schafer, Victor Raymond, and Erik Baker the Official Minicon 33 Exec.


Martin recused himself from the discussion for some reason.

Geri: formally suggests a Revolution.

This fails for a lack of a second.

Very little other discussion occurs, much to the disappointment of those people who love a good argument.

Final decision, and still champion, by unanimous decision of the Board less its recused member:

 *Martin Schafer, Victor Raymond, and Erik Baker are Anointed as the Official Minicon 33 Exec. Long live the Exec!*

6) Don Bailey Encourages the Board to develop a Computer Policy.

Don would like policy that department or office will get a computer and appropriate software which will move with the office. He suggests a computer a year.

We have a computer which was bought for Minicon years ago—the “camel.” It is/was shared by registration and One True Mailing List (OTML) (and ?).

Martin speaks as both Exec and Board, but I can’t remember what he said then.

Laurel needs to be part of the discussion.

Focus on OTML, which drives registration, etc.

Martin: OTML important/immediate because there’s a June deadline for Minicon PR1.

Ballpark budget needed.

Fred mentions that we have a source for reduced price Macintoshes—they’ll be price-competitive with Intel machines.

Martin doesn’t believe Apple will be around in three years.

Much disagreement about the Future of Apple back and forth and in general, but a fist-fight is avoided.

Dean points out that one fly in the ointment is that computers become obsolete (not as in “to be replaced by giant bioengineered thinking squashes” but as in “this one’s no longer cutting-edge technology”).

In the course of the discussion it is realized that the current location of the “camel” is unknown. People thought maybe Greg Cotton has it? Or Sherri Lessinger? I can’t remember whether somebody was going to look into this.

OOPS, it looks like the club *does* need a Quartermaster for non-locker stuff (e.g., computers).

Decision:

 *Don Bailey will schedule a meeting, to include:*

- *interested members of the Board*
- *Minicon 33 Exec*
- *VPDP (Laurel)*

Don will have a Progress Report by the June Board meeting.

Don will have a Report by the July Board meeting.

7) Minicon

a) Fred’s suggestion

Fred passed out printed copy of his suggestion contained in “Submitted for your consideration...” and all to-date responses from Minicon mailing list. (Shown in Attachment 970417a) Asks no discussion until next time. If then.

7) Minicon


b) Jeff Berry

Geri is concerned because some of the messages Jeff has posted to Minicon mailing list are mentioning a high level of donation and he says his involvement with Minicon is cutting into his business. She may be over-sensitive to the issues of burnout, but wants to at least share her concern.

Martin: Exec is already on top of it. Jeff was friendly vendor who was taking up slack when volunteers weren't getting the job done. M33 is moving to ensure that Jeff is doing fewer tasks and is out of the role of volunteer. His role is a valued, friendly vendor.

Geri passes Martin a print-out of the messages to the Minicon mailing list from Jeff that were causing her concern.

The Board Speaks:

 *Exec, please continue to try to see that Jeff and Janet do not burn out.*

7) **Minicon**

- c) **There have been quite a few messages on the Minicon mailing list saying that the Board ought to do “something” (fill in the blank) re Minicon.**

Geri points out that the appropriate role of the Board is long-range planning, since the details of any given Minicon are handled by its Exec.

So the question becomes how to do some long-range planning?

As usual, it's decided that the first step is to do some information gathering. Hence we move on to point 7)d)....

7) **Minicon**

- d) **Survey**

The Survey should be of Minn-stf members, broadly defined. We want to try to get complete polling of Greater Minn-Stf (which is defined as what? The *EINBLATT* list? Something else?). So we'll need an aggressive pursuit of returns—that is, follow-up calls, repeated if necessary. Try to actually get as many people to respond as possible.

Remember to hit all “categories” of people with respect to Minicon: going, coping, and not going any more.


Polly goes on record that it shouldn't *just* be Minn-stf—that the people who come to Minicon should count too.

In addition to identifying who is to be surveyed, we also need to identify the issues that need to be addressed by the survey. The Board may want some input from the Exec on this.

Dean feels that we need to ask: If there is to be change, what should be changed and what *shouldn't* be changed?

Geri is willing to head up the work on a new survey, even though she's feeling a bit burned by the response to her last one. She'll recruit some helpers (Neil Rest and Joyce Scrivner have already offered to help), and will want *REAL INPUT* from the board once there's a rough draft. *RAE, BNC* will not be sufficient....

The Board:

 *Confirms Geri as coordinator of new survey, promises real input.*

7) Minicon

e) Minicon 33 Status Report from the Exec

Martin reports that Minicon 33 is trying to focus:

- continue the drum jam compromise
- no organized rave
- no mainstage music
- still discussing dance
- masquerade still in
- Qvarks is no longer considered a Minicon Department. They can have a private room if they wish, just like anyone else, but there will be no blurring of Minicon Committee vs. private roles. If they want to advertise, they'll have to buy ads in the PR's and/or Program Book.

7) Minicon

f) Other

Geri asks whether the Survey is "it," or if there might be some other ways to go about some long-range planning and/or figuring out something to "do" about Minicon.... Some discussion follows.

Dean: Can something be done to minimize the problems that might be caused by either a poor choice of Exec some year or bad results of decisions an Exec makes?

Geri: Identify potential pool of execs.

Polly: Provide leadership training.


Don points out that there really *are* very few candidates.

Ron says: The Minicon volunteer form lists a bunch of jobs, but doesn't describe them. What are the job descriptions/framework of various jobs listed on the volunteer forms? It would be quite helpful to know.

There is agreement with this point. I don't think anything was specifically Mandated, but the suggestion is passed on to the Exec....

Don recommends board encourage Lydy's Project Brain Suck, including having her report to the Board regarding progress.

The Board Speaks:

 *This is cool.*

Don suggests we pick some of the more established, reputable other local fan groups and meet with them regarding the future of Minicon.

Margo: Volunteering is crucial to many people's enjoyment of Minicon.

More general discussion, which eventually dribbles out, and we go on to:

Preliminary Agenda for Next Meeting

- 👤 How to fix Minn-stf.
- 👤 Fred's "proposal."
- 👤 What about a Quartermaster?
- 👤 Fred noticed (after the meeting) that Kay Drache is listed as "Archivist" in the most recent Minn-Stf directory. Does she still hold this position?
- 👤 Did we forget any other officers?
- 👤 Keys to the PO boxes—number of sets and who's got 'em?

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:45 PM.

NEXT MEETING Thursday 15 May 7:00 PM at home of Eileen Lufkin.

Fred realizes that it would be helpful if people would send him e-copies of anything they're intending to pass out at meetings, so they can be appended to the Minutes as Attachments. Unless the Board thinks this is unnecessarily anal....

Submitted with all due respect by the Official Happy Deadwood & Recording Secretary,
Fred A. Levy Haskell

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