

**NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
The Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn
Manchester, NH
March 24, 1998**

Introductory. Chair Leo Laferriere opened the meeting at 5:05 PM. He introduces members of the Executive Committee. A count of attendees was made and a quorum declared. Laferriere reviewed antitrust requirements.

Minutes. Minutes of the 1997 Annual Business Meeting were offered for review. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Budget. Charlie Thompson referred members to the NESAF Summary Report - 1997, NESAF Balance Sheet, and the 1998 Budget Worksheet. A question was raised of there not being enough money to cover mailings to membership of meeting minutes. It was pointed out by Thompson that mailings are sent to Executive Committee members only for communication purposes.

Leo Laferriere moved to accept the 1998 budget as presented. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

SAF Vice-President Comments. Jim Coufal thanked New England members for their votes in getting him elected. Coufal reported on:

- Award winning SAF web site
- Highly acclaimed and award winning *Forestry Source*
- Looking for outside sources of funding for teleconferencing capability
- Certified Forester Program - 58 certified foresters to date.
- SAF testimony on Capitol Hill being sought after - SAF is having an influence in Congress

Coufal urged members to get involved in 2000 SAF Centennial Celebration. SAF members built house for "Habitat for Humanity" during Annual Meeting in Memphis, TN.

SAF Policy Director Comments. Larry Hill reported on the regional scope to policy issues and getting State Societies involved in issues:

- Pacific Salmon Protection
- Interior Columbia Ecosystem Project

Hill is working with State Societies in preparing position statements:

- Management of USFS & BLM lands
- Forest Management Certification - What is the profession's role?

SAF is trying to bring the World Forestry Congress to the US in 2003. The Policy Department is in the process of making By-laws more efficient and understandable.

Bob Seymour asked Larry Hill if SAF had made a formal endorsement of AF&PA's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Hill responded they had not made an endorsement.

SAF Centennial Plans. Carol Redelsheimer gave a progress report on plans. Most funding is to come from outside sources, not from SAF.

Centennial Planning Stages:

1. Prelaunch - now, strategizing.
2. Launch - plans, strategy, and introduction to media and membership.
3. Kickoff - public service announcements, book to be published, celebrations, State Society activities - end of 1999 to early 2000.

Carol reported that they are looking for a volunteer from each State Society to serve as an archivist/historian. Leo Laferriere read Centennial Liaison position description to membership. He made a request for a volunteer. Charlie Niebling asked if the Centennial would be used as a springboard for a major policy initiative as well as a look back at our past. Leo Laferriere read the historian/archivist position description and asked for a volunteer.

Council Report. Charlie Levesque reported that SAF is focusing on strategic planning. Where do we want to be in 10 to 20 years from now? SAF is looking at Megatrends in society to see how it affects forestry. The "member get a member" campaign is underway and Levesque asked that each member get one new member to join SAF in 1998.

Executive Director Comments. Dick Watt asked for more people to give Fellow nominations. Watt asked for a computer upgrade beyond his current 8088.

Division Reports. Division reports were given by Charlie Niebling (Granite State), Si Balch (Maine), Marc Tremblay (Yankee), Sarah Parker (Green Mountain), Hans Bergey (Rhode Island). Fred Borman handed the Connecticut Division's written report to the secretary.

Policy Committee Report. Nothing to report. The committee planned to meet on 3-25-98 in the morning.

News Quarterly Report. Gary Salmon requested more information from the membership to include in the newsletter. Salmon thanked those who had sent correspondence.

Chair Laferriere reported that national SAF wants us to have a membership committee and chairperson. Larry Smith asked Jim Coufal if we had more technician members now that they were given voting rights. Jim Coufal responded yes.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James Stewart
Secretary

