

MICHIGAN STATE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
Meeting of the Board 3:30 PM, February 11, 2007
Kellogg Center, East Lansing

I. Call to Order **President Finger** 3:40pm

II. Roll Call **Joe LeBlanc**

Present: Joe LeBlanc, President Finger, Ken Leach, Mike Dennany, Carl Tackett, Julianna Wostyn, Larry Swisher, Larry Sekulich, Wayne Hall, Ann Bobrofsky, Tom Klunzinger, Dany Rothfeld, Ken Leach. Arriving at (4:15pm): Al Bobrofsky

Absent: Greg Guseff, Robert Lusch

III. Introduction of visitors **President Finger**

Mary Dennany, Linda Leach, Rita Jean and Don Charters, Bill Summerell, Brian Malnar, Frank Passic, Tom Coulson

IV. Invocation **Joe LeBlanc**

V. Minutes of Nov. 24, 2006 **Joe LeBlanc**

Item VIII. C. – Mike Dennany asked that we add, after the word “hotels”, that he intended that we look at other hotels as well, to have a better negotiating pool.

VI. Additions to Agenda **Board**

Joe LeBlanc added: IX.C. a new item 8 “Correspondence”
XI.G. a new item “Fall ’07 Bourse Fee”

Tom Klunzinger added: XI.H. “Point System”

Julie Wostyn added: XI.I “Communications”

Mike Dennany added XI.J A discussion of how free tables are given away at the show

VII. Approve Agenda **Board**

Tom Klunzinger moved, and Dany Rothfeld seconded, a motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

VIII. Member Comments **President Finger**

Tom Klunzinger – things happen and people grumble about it without directly addressing the person involved – let’s resolve to be more direct.

IX. Officer Reports

A. President **President Finger**

Welcome. Let’s look for ways to improve communications, and find ways to spend our money that helps Numismatics.

B. Vice President **Vice President Ann Bobrofsky**

For some time we’ve been attempting to determine how much money we should have had in our Life Membership fund. We used to keep everything on cards in card files. These were turned over by Ann to her successor, Tom Klunzinger, but they were never returned by him. Now they have re-appeared – at the last convention, under the exhibit tables. .

C. Secretary-Treasurer **Joe LeBlanc**

1. Review Current Financials

a. Regular funds

CD \$25,000 5% Matures April 2007

CD \$25,000 5.2% Matures March 2008

Checking Account (Jan. 23) balance is \$12,500 approximately.

b. Life /Trust funds

CD \$25,000 5% Matures March 07 – Life Funds

CD \$30,000 5% Matures April 07 – “Trust Funds”

Ken Leach asked the purpose of life membership funds. President Finger explained that the principle would revert to

the ANA should MSNS disband. The interest on these funds may be employed by the club. Brian Malnar asked whether MSNS paid its full pledge to the ANA made in the past – the answer was that we have.

c. Savings Account \$26,000 approximately, including proceeds from the Pruchnicki trust.

d. Pruchnicki Trust \$13,540 – proceeds from sale of coins at auction – was paid to us by Craig Whitford. The remainder of coins which did not sell, need direction. Craig feels they are worth three to six thousand dollars, and can be put into a future auction. Tom Klunzinger moved that the remainder continue to be consigned to Craig Whitford at his next public auction (wherever it may be), with a provision that they be sold without reserve, but not for less than melt. Ken Leach seconded, and the motion carried.

e. \$100,000 FDIC Limit

We have exceeded this limit of funds deposited in a single institution. LeBlanc asked that the \$13,540 proceeds from the sale of Pruchnicki Trust coins be placed in a different financial institution. Tom Klunzinger moved that Joe LeBlanc be permitted to move the Pruchnicki Trust realized funds to a second institution, and to open an account yielding approximately 5 to 5.25% interest, in order to avoid exceeding the \$100,000 FDIC insured limit. Vice President Ann Bobrofsky seconded the motion, which carried.

2. Membership Report

a. Member Totals

We have: 582 regular members, 21 honorary life members, 465 life members, 45 junior members, and 24 club members – for a total of 1137. Those who have not paid dues as of March 31 shall be dropped – a second notice has been sent to all who did not pay yet, two weeks ago. The first notice had gone out in November.

b. David Hartung & Robert Sweet – Life Applicants

Tom Klunzinger moved, and Dany Rothfeld seconded, a motion to approve these life applicants. The Motion carried.

3. 2006 Budget

a. Submitted. Limited discussion

4. Budget Fall 2006

Please consider the report mailed previously to all board members to be the final report. President Finger noted that as an organization we are not on an accrual basis. There is an amount that we have incurred as a liability, which is an obligation to send two people to ANA workshops over the next two years, of approximately \$2k. We don't carry this forward formally on the books, but we do know that it is an obligation.

5. Property Report

We are out of “good” special edition Redbooks – all have been distributed. The better of the water-damaged ones which remain can be given to YN's. We still have about 100 of the silver rounds. We also have 1 or 2 fewer than a roll of 1956 Franklin half dollars, for use as prizes, etc. When gold took one of its dips, we bought our exhibit and raffle gold prizes for Spring 2007. And of course, we have the unsold Pruchnicki coins. Don Charters has the MSNS microwave, used by the hospitality room people, and will give it to whomever may prefer to store it. We have 4-5 boxes of quarter boards. These boards aren't being given away fast enough, so we'll put them out at the registration desk for our next show.

Bill Summerell has repaired all of our cases, and fixed the locks. Our storage unit is still dry and on high ground. We still have broken lamps, some of which can't be fixed. We still have new lamps that haven't been opened yet.

6. Spring 2007 Budget

Last spring we were below the guaranteed minimum of hotel rooms, and had to pay a penalty. This spring it may occur again. A motion was made by Tom Klunzinger to approve the budget as a working budget for 2007. Ken Leach seconded. Julianna Wostyn asked why some dealers get a better deal. Don explained that supply and book dealers alone get better table rates. Also, there are some dealers filling empty spaces on Sunday only for \$100, and it sometimes is possible to sell a table at a reduced rate under special circumstances, e.g. at the last minute, in order to fill an otherwise empty table. Further, there are percentile allocations of funds that make the numbers come out odd. Dany Rothfeld asked that awards stay the same, without regard for the fact that they're changing in cost due to rising silver and gold prices. Justification included the fact that the Pruchnicki donation was for education, which is what the exhibit awards are for. Motion passed.

7. 2007 Budget

Tom Klunzinger moved that we approve this document as a working document. Carl Tackett seconded. Motion passed.

8. Correspondence

We received a thank-you card from the Dillard family for our condolences and flowers sent by MSNS on the passing

of Ray Dillard's wife.

X. Old Business

A. Schlag Memorial Update Al Bobrofsky

There are \$650 in monies received above the expenses for the memorial that was placed. 20 sets of the original design of the Schlag nickel design, donated by the Full-Step Nickel Club, were certified – with his name mis-spelled – which are now being re-encapsulated with correct spelling. 16 have been sold. This money will be used to purchase a Michigan historical site marker – and money after that will go to the MSNS YN program. After placement of the historical marker, a ceremony will be considered. Applications for sets should be sent to Joe LeBlanc.

B. Insurance coverage Joe LeBlanc

Joe distributed copies of our insurance carrier's statement of our coverages. This carrier has offered us the opportunity to insure against acts of terrorism. Don Charters noted that CSNS has discussed this same thing, and considered that they needed it. Tom Klunzinger moved, and Dany Rothfeld seconded, that we obtain this terrorism coverage. Motion approved.

C. 501c7 Change to 501c3 Joe LeBlanc

We have submitted our application to the IRS, and our \$750 check for their fee has been cashed.

*** 5:00 pm: Tom moved that we adjourn until 5:30 to have dinner. Afterward, we re-convened at 5:50pm. ***

XI. New Business

A. Hire CPA for our Taxes Joe LeBlanc

Mr. Jack Huggins has been our tax form preparer for the past several years. LeBlanc asked that we continue with him. Tom Klunzinger moved, and Vice President Ann Bobrofsky seconded, a motion that we continue to employ Jack Huggins to fill out our tax forms for 2006. Motion passed.

B. Tim LaPointe Membership Joe LeBlanc

With regard to the Tom Noe – MSNS Life Member – issues in the past, the board had declined to take action. Tim, a current member who has not paid his dues for 2007, will probably lapse anyway – but he is similarly subject to our taking action – because he was involved in the same illegal activities. We have the right to revoke the membership of anyone convicted of a felony, according to our constitution. We have not always acted on it. Tom Klunzinger moved, and Mike Strub seconded a motion to expel both Tom Noe and Tim LaPointe from membership for reason of felony conviction, and that appropriate procedures be followed. President Finger noted that we need legal counsel, and he will pursue such. We must research it to be sure our statement about it is correct. Motion carried, with two naves.

C. Honorary Life Membership for President Finger Joe LeBlanc

Having filled a normal term of Presidency, the constitution calls for President Finger's membership to convert from a normal life membership to an honorary life membership. There was an honorary affirmation by the board.

D. Scooter Rental – Charters Joe LeBlanc

Since the convention coordinator job has transferred from Don Charters to Brian Malnar. Mr. Charter's receives no payment from MSNS. Mr. Charters incurred an expense to rent a medical scooter at the Fall 06 show. The scooter rental fee of approximately \$300 has not been reimbursed. Some members of the board, without Mr. Charters' request of foreknowledge, wished that this fee be reimbursed to Mr. Charters. Mike Strub moved, and Julianna Wostyn seconded, a motion to reimburse Mr. Charters \$300 for his scooter rental, for his invaluable service to our convention November last. Motion passed.

E. Whitford Auction Report Whitford

Craig Whitford is willing to do an auction for us this Fall, on a smaller scale, e.g. a 1000 lot auction with three days of viewing and one night only of auctioning. Craig is willing to do it, but encourages us to find another auctioneer Steve Friedman is working on this. Tom Klunzinger moved that President Finger be authorized to enter negotiations with Craig Whitford to award the Fall, 2007 auction to him (not to sign the contract, but to find out what his conditions may be). To the best of our knowledge, we have never received final prices from the November auction, although our contract stated that we were supposed to receive this record of hammer prices. Craig seems unwilling, based on the costs he has to bear, especially on a holiday weekend, to continue beyond his offer as stated. The discussions with Bowers and Merena auctions seemed promising, but we have no commitment at this time. Mike Dennany seconded Tom's motion. Motion passed.

F. ANA Nominations

Joe LeBlanc

At the November convention, we endorsed Joe Bolling for the ANA board of governors. Patti Finner has requested a similar endorsement from the board, which we have already agreed to fill out and send in. Radford Stern, Barry Stupler, John Eshbach, Michael Doren are non-MSNS members who have requested similar endorsements, but this is not our policy. However, we do have a policy of endorsing MSNS members who request such. Cliff Mishler and Tom Cirna are running as well. Larry Sekulich said that he would be reluctant to support any of these people unless we knew how they stand on current high-visibility issues on the ANA board. Tom Klunzinger suggested we continue with our existing policy. President Finger agreed – and noted that this is not a vote to vote for them, just to nominate them. These will be done.

G. Fall '07 Bourse Fee

Joe LeBlanc

The board needs to take action to set the Bourse Fee. There has been discussion of a two-tiered system – main room is one price and the annex another price. This was done in the past, but discontinued during the last two years. Charters pointed out that the policy on fees changed because the Annex is now getting better traffic. And you can get two or more tables there, but not in the main room. In the main room, only a third of your table can be non-numismatic, but half of your table in the annex can be non-numismatic. President Finger called for the board to decide whether to change the current policy of the same-price-per-table in both annex and main floor. Vice-President Ann Bobrofsky moved that the bourse fee be set to \$350 for the Fall convention in both the annex and the main floor. The motion was seconded by Mike Dennany, and passed. Bill Summerell asked whether we need a form for dealers on Sunday-only setups. President Finger asked that we leave this to the convention coordinator. Joe LeBlanc agreed that we should have these dealers fill out the form, if for nothing else than to sign the liability waiver. Don Charters said there are typically 20 tables that become available on Sundays, but only three dealers regularly take these tables.

J.- How Free Table was given away at last show.

The free table was an incentive to keep dealers from leaving early – dealers still at their tables at 3pm on Sunday at the last Fall show were in a drawing for a free table at the following years' Fall show. Someone commented that the dealer called for this award was still in the building and should have been awarded his table. Others disagreed – he should have been at his table, with material still displayed, but was apparently on his way out, having closed up. Charters explained that the person called first last time wasn't at their table. So a second name was called. By the fifth name, finally the dealer was found at his table. President Finger noted that the convention committee needs to make a clear policy of how the free table is to be awarded, and exactly how the dealer's presence at 3pm is to be defined.

H. Point System

Klunzinger wants to have board members see a running total of where the point totals stand for dealers. Everyone should be able to refer to this list. President Finger asked if Malnar could provide this. He had it with him. Dealers get 1 point for a years' ads in the MichMatist (which is pro-rated as ¼ point per issue, based on the immediately preceding 4 issues). They can receive 1 point for life membership. The other 5 points are based on attendance at previous shows, as follows: 2 points for previous fall show, 1 for each previous spring show and the fall show before that. Joe added that 20 dealers have not yet, after a request and two follow-ups, committed for their ads for 2007.

I. Communications

Julie Wostyn noted that board members have not been responding to member questions consistently. Perhaps there should be a board member who is a central point of contact – who takes member questions to the board - and we could post questions and answers on the web, and print them in the MichMatist. It was described how we post our emails, and how Joe LeBlanc can change his message in each issue of the Mich-Matist to clarify that he is one point of contact for member questions.

XII. Committee Reports

A. Exhibit

Passic

On advice of legal counsel, we have changed the wording of our liability release to better fit the level of security that we provide. We also have changed the deadline to have exhibits in place to 11am. Since our rules say one may forego their ANA trip for a half- ounce of gold, this policy will be enforced. This fall the proof set prices will go up because of Presidential dollars, so we'll need a little more money for prizes. Frank Passic thanked the board for the budget increase, which will allow prizes to remain consistent. The board thanked Frank for his good work.

B. Auctions

Summerell

Bill Summerell wants to know what to do and how to do it, regarding how to proceed with getting other auction houses to submit bids. President Finger said that we should be inviting auction houses to submit proposals. What do

they offer? Al Bobrofsky suggested that Summerell contact Kathy Freeland, who has the responses of all the auction houses in the country, based on her last solicitation. Charters pointed out that they don't answer generic letters anyway, but that we need to have the correct contact name and have paved the way with other communication. President Finger said that, to assist the auction committee, we need to draft a letter that can be sent to everybody. Perhaps we need to put an ad in Numismatic News or Coin World. We need to consult with ANA to see how this is done, and we need to talk to our legal counsel, Steve Bieda.

C. Past Presidents **Al Bobrofsky** no comment

D. MichMatist **Dr. Parks** not present

The board thanked Mike Strub for his good work.

E. Publicity **Marotta** not present

F. Membership **Sekulich**

Larry Sekulich would like to give something away to new members – he will offer his silver medal as a lottery item incentive for new members. Joe LeBlanc says that last Fall, we got about 40 new members based on giving away Coin World Almanacs. He would like the board to authorize us to approach publishers like NN or Coin World to give us or sell for a discount sets of books to give away again at future conventions to entice new members. Mike Dennany moved, and Mike Strub seconded, that the board authorize an expenditure of \$300 to make these acquisitions. Motion approved. Ken Leach and Mike Strub were appointed to Larry's membership committee by President Finger.

G. Convention Manual **Al Bobrofsky**

By April 1, Al, Kelly, Don, and Bryan will have provided a draft of the Convention Manual.

H. Convention Committee **Al Bobrofsky** no comment

I. Finance Review - Audit **Ann Bobrofsky**

Ann has reviewed the P&L statement from Joe, and she is comfortable with it. So, added President Finger, is he.

J. Anniversary **Dissolved**

The anniversary committee is officially dissolved. All committee members are commended by the board for their good work. We are extremely pleased with Ray Dillard's effort, including the banquet and the Redbooks. Kelly will draft a letter of thanks on behalf of the board.

XIII. Committee Appointments

All board members are invited to express their interest in any committees, and Kelly will make appointments and re-appointments as he sees fit.

XIV. Board Member Comments none

XV. General Membership Comments none

XVI. Adjourn Dany Rothfeld moved we adjourn. So moved. 7:18pm.