

MICHIGAN STATE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Meeting of the Board 4:09 PM, April 8, 2006

Hyatt Regency, Dearborn

- I. Call to Order Finger 4:09pm
- II. Roll Call LeBlanc
Present: Al Bobrofsky, Ann Bobrofsky, Mike Denany, Kelly Finger, Steve Friedman, Joe LeBlanc, Bill Summerell, Larry Sekulich, Mike Strub, Michael Marotta, Robert Lusch (excused 6:30pm) Greg Guseff, Steve Marzilli (4:28pm), Dr. Parks, Dany Rothfeld, Carl Tackett
- III. Introduction of visitors Finger
Ray Dillard, Brian Malnar, Don Charters, Larry White, Ray Stimac, Rita Jean Sledge, Marge Stroshine, Frank Passic, Charles Fenwick
- IV. Invocation Joe LeBlanc
- V. Minutes of February 12, 2006 Joe LeBlanc
Changes/corrections
A. Fall Bourse Fee 2nd XI. D. Is unknown at this point – was stated as Steve Friedman
B. Whitford Contract XII. C. Steve won't put in contract form, the executive committee will do so.
Steve Friedman wishes only to review.
A motion to accept minutes was made by Carl Tackett, seconded by Bob Lusch, and approved.
- VI. Additions to Agenda Board
Old business item C, Felix Schlag update.
XIII. B. Hyatt Room Rates
XIII. C. Dealer Points -
XIII. D. Bourse Layout - Rothfeld
A motion to suspend the meeting at 6:15, and then to reconvene at the call of the President, was made by Carl Tackett, second by Steve Friedman, and approved.
- VII. Approve Agenda Board
A motion to approve the agenda was made by Steve Friedman, seconded by Larry Sekulich, and approved.
- VIII. Member Comments President Finger
Ray Stimac – who also attended the meeting last November – stated he recalled a motion was made to return Larry Swisher and himself to their original tables. It was made and approved. Afterward he received a phone call from the bourse chairman, Don Charters that the change approved in the board meeting would not be made, because it was supposed that the board had also said “if the change could be done”. This is not correct according to Ray.
Don Charters said that Ray had 6 points last year, and the other dealers had 7 points who were in that row. However, President Finger noted that he believes Ray is this year a 7 point dealer.
President Finger attempted to clarify: The 7 point system was designed only to decide who got in the main room and who got in the annex. It was never designed to decide table locations within a room. Only later were the exact numbers of points used to decide on row allocations. There is no rule that says that the point system provides precise placement in rooms.
Dr. Parks suggested that an independent arbitrator should take up the issue with the interested parties.
Steve Marzilli said that Ray should be reinstated as he believes was decided at the last meeting.
Don Charters asked which of the 7 point dealers should be removed to allow Ray to be placed there.
Carl Tackett asked for the point standings of all dealers, and felt that many in the row in question cannot be 7 point dealers, e.g. those who do not set up at Spring shows.

Steve Friedman made a suggestion for a table rotation to attempt to solve the problem.

Kelly suspended discussion, deferred to committee. Steve Marzilli, Brian Malnar, and Kelly Finger will be on the committee, and make the best decision they can make.

IX. Board Membership

A. Greg Guseff –Absent Jan. 05 & Feb. 06 Joe LeBlanc

As a statement of fact, based on the requirements of our constitution, it was noted that these two absences permit us to expel Greg from the board. The board did not wish to take any action.

B. President Appointments (if any) President Finger
None

X. Officer Reports

A. President President Finger
Pass

B. Vice President Ann Bobrofsky
Pass

C. Secretary-Treasurer Joe LeBlanc

1. Review Current Financials

a. Regular

CD \$25k 3.75% Matures May 2006

Checking Account (April 1) \$49k approximately

b. Life /Trust Funds

CD \$25K 3.75% Matures, April 06 – Life Funds

CD \$30K 4% Matures, June 06 – “Trust Funds”

Joe intends to renew these CDs at best rates upon maturity.

c. Savings Account \$11,250

Balance must be kept over \$10k to avoid certain fees

As a corporate entity we cannot use a credit union

d. Renew CD's

Mike Marotta moved, and Bob Lusch seconded that we permit Joe to roll over these CDs at his discretion. Motion approved

2. Membership Report

a. Member Totals: March 31 we dropped unpaid members. We now have 425 regular, 22 honorary life, 469 life, 36 junior, 23 clubs. Due to nonpayment of dues we will be dropping the clubs of East Detroit, Warren, Early American Coppers, Birmingham-Bloomfield (P.O.Box is now closed, no way even to contact them)

b. 2006 Dues notices were mailed November 1 last year, and reminders were sent mid-February of 2006. Joe would like to send a third notice to those who have been dropped, to 120 people. The board did not object to this mailing.

3. 2005 Tax Filing - Report Status

a. Jack Huggins has 2005 information and is working on it. Kelly asked Joe to provide copy to the finance committee on completion. Al Bobrofsky asked, Joe LeBlanc confirmed that we are up on our corporate filing to the state.

4. Budget MSNS – Spring 06

The board received a spreadsheet in advance of this meeting. 128 tables were sold for this Spring show. We will be in a significant penalty situation with regard to hotel charges. We will be under on income, over on expense, and in the red for this convention.

5. 2006 Budget

There is nothing yet to report this early in the year.

6. Property Report – Bill Summerell

We've replaced a few light bulbs. Some case hinges have been damaged, and may need repair or should perhaps be sold off for a nominal amount. Bill to do an inventory of sign holders. Larry Sekulich thought a sign was missing, but it is just not posted yet.

XI. Old Business

A. WWW Internet Pages Joe LeBlanc

Our internet page has fallen behind, until last night when Mr. Marotta took care of the issue with Ms. Tabor. Kelly explained that it was not Tracy's fault, but the communication never got to her that she is the new webmaster for us.

B. Code of Ethics Mike Marotta

This was sent to board members. It is slated to come off the table in the fall, but Mike would like to have a sense of the board as to whether there are any objections. Steve Friedman noted that some collect counterfeits, Mike Marotta explained that the ANA and the secret service alone have the legal right to do this. The ethics statement does except items that are generally accepted by collectors, e.g. restrikes and certain contemporary counterfeits. There was more controversy over whether differences in grade constitute willful misrepresentations.

C. Felix Schlag Update Al Bobrofsky

\$1435 has been raised in donations to this memorial – approval has been gained from the cemetery. The full required amount of money is available, and the memorial will be installed this year.

XII. Election Joe LeBlanc

A. Nominations April 1 – May 1 is the constitutional nomination period, but this has been extended at the direction of the board through May 15. Nominations are done in writing. They are not done verbally in board meetings. Two different people must nominate a person in order for them to run.

At the board's request, Joe LeBlanc read the few nominations that have arrived as of this board meeting: Al Bobrofsky for President, Ann Bobrofsky for Vice President. For Director: Steve Friedman, Carl Tackett, Al Bobrofsky, Mike Strub, Andy Parks, Robert Lusch, Mike Dennany, Larry Sekulich, Ann Bobrofsky, Jack Lavis, Steve Marilli, Larry Swisher, Dany Rothfeld, Kenneth Leach. These are those who have QUALIFIED for nomination.

B. Pat Heller Hired – Joe LeBlanc has discussed with Heller his being our CPA for the upcoming election, and he has accepted. Joe then explained the method of election.

XIII. New Business

A. CNA – Niagara Falls Greg Guseff

The Canadian Numismatic Association Secretary Treasurer has invited us to this convention in July – to man a table there, next to Patty Finner for CSNS. They need it manned for 3 days. Greg Guseff will be there and would be willing to man a table. The board voted approval of his participation. Mike Marotta moved that the board allocate a budget of \$100 for incidental expenses. Steve Marzilli seconded. Motion approved. Mike Strub to make 100 extra copies of MichMatist for Greg to take to this convention.

B. Hyatt Room Rates

Steve Friedman was approached by 3 people who were told by the hotel that there was no convention rate – when there clearly is. We need to have someone monitor the front desk. We need also to advertise in the MichMatist that there is a discounted rate. And our rate, even at \$99, is not as low as others he's seen.

President Finger explained that the fee for the main room is negotiated along with the hotel rooms – if one is higher, the other is lower. The convention coordinator and/or the committee is responsible to make sure that they provide a good list of people that should have discount rates – the hotel compares the list to their own guest list.

Mike Dennany said that we should promote the discount hotel rate. We haven't promoted it for the two years he's been here. He made a motion that all advertising in the MichMatist, Coin World, and Numismatic News, and the Website mention that attendees should request a discount rate from the hotel – along with a phone number – and the cutoff date. Steve Marzilli seconded. Motion passed.

C. Dealer Points

Larry Sekulich mentioned a dealer whose illness prevented him from attending the Spring 2003 convention, who wants his table back. And he said that this alludes to the greater issue of how catastrophic illnesses or deaths in the family can be recovered from in terms of regaining points. Kelly Finger noted that these issues must be left in the hands of the Convention Coordinator – and that imposing rules on the coordinator of higher complexity would so hinder him that he would likely quit. Steve Marzilli said the dealer in question had fewer points – in part because he did not advertise - and was not due this favor.

D. Bourse Layout

Dany Rothfeld

We used to have stands for the name of the dealer. He suggested instead that there should be hanging signs on the front of the tables. Controversy arose over who would make these and their cost. Kelly said this is micro-management of the convention coordinator's job. Al Bobrofsky discussed the sign cost as being quite high, and that dealers would take or discard these signs. Dany suggested dealers pay a deposit to prevent.

Steve Marzilli stated that Rita Jean Sledz wants an increase in the funds allocated to the hospitality room from \$500 to \$650 for future conventions. This will be discussed in the Fall. Amount for this Fall is actually \$1250 – though that includes the fruit for the dealers – according to Joe LeBlanc. Joe said he'd talk to Rita and work this out.

E. Director's Room Rate

President Finger stated that we have an abundance of rooms, which we must pay for anyway based on our contract, at 80% of the rate. Kelly allowed the convention coordinator to allow directors to take these rooms for the 20% difference between what we must pay anyway, and the regular negotiated rate for the convention. Carl Tackett moved and Steve Friedman seconded a motion to approve Kelly's action. Motion passed.

Steve Marzilli opinioned that all directors that are from out of town should have a room, because this meeting is work. Steve Friedman supported. Dr. Parks asked deferral. Joe LeBlanc suggested that the 80% subsidy on this convention's hotel rooms, by directors, may be pay and might require 1099 forms. Others noted the amount must exceed \$600 for 1099 forms to be required. Steve Marzilli made a motion that for all future shows that all directors get a room. Second by Steve Friedman. After discussion, motion by Tackett, second by Dennany to table this motion until the next meeting. Tabling motion passed.

XIV. Committee Reports

A. Anniversary

1. 50th Medal Dr. Parks

A design for a 50th anniversary medal has been selected by the committee – based on Bill Ewald's design, with some modifications. The committee has no direction on the number they will have made up. SilverTowne will be the vendor. The costs are: \$300-\$800 per die depending on the complexity. Setup charge of \$50 for the run. Silver metal cost for 1.5" medals would be \$2.50 plus silver spot per planchet for up to 500. For more, it would be \$2.25 plus spot. Doing this in gold would be on a subscription basis. \$30 plus spot would be the charge for planchets. 4-5 weeks of lead time is required. At the moment we contract with them, we lock in that spot metal price. We considered charging \$20 for the silver medals – each would have 1 ounce of Silver. Exhibit committee wants a certain number – bought out of their budget – for giving as prizes to exhibitors. We won't be numbering the medals. The number will be limited – the committee needs guidance.

The reverse die is not in SilverTowne's stock and would have to be created. Kelly noted that the committee should use their discretion to answer these unanswered questions.

2. Red Books Ray Dillard

There was a meeting this morning, there is lots of stuff in motion. Commemorative Redbook for anniversary convention has been approved – 500 books will be printed – and it will be under budget.

As chair of the banquet, Ray explained that we are planning on soliciting several organizations to be donors to sponsor it. We expect at least 4 donors for at least \$500 each. The breakfast will be dropped to help save money to pay for this banquet.

Elongated quarters will be prepared – which requires a larger die – and these will be rolled on Michigan quarters. The quarters won't be handed out free – so there will be a smaller die for the cents to be rolled on, so that these will be given out free.

The board held a recess from 6:15 – 6:47 (primarily to enable dealer members to close their tables for the night)

B. Exhibits Frank Passic

We have already got 14 exhibits and 43 cases committed for Fall. Limit is 110 cases. For the current convention, we have 4 first place sponsors - \$600 savings realized this time.

We need to have the award breakfast – the Saturday night dinner won't work for this purpose. Kelly explained that we had traded the Breakfast for an offset against the Dinner costs. We have now asked the cost of adding back the breakfast. We will try to find a way.

Frank explained – the gold category was successful with 5 exhibits. We want to continue this category as a permanent one – there are already 3 submissions against this category for the Fall convention. Committee has voted to add rotating themes of state quarters and errors. Steve Marzilli moved, Mike Dennany seconded a motion that Gold be added as a permanent classification for awards. Motion passed.

Frank said he has a shortage of judges – even besides those who went to the competing ANA convention. First wish: Ask Joe Bolling to come to the next convention – or send a replacement – to conduct a judging seminar. If that isn't possible, to conduct an internal seminar. Kelly wants to make space available – will ask Don Charters– to use for this purpose. Don said it is. Frank was asked to provide a room request to the convention coordinator, and to provide information as to the expense of retaining the expert – expected to be travel, room, and board.

Best of Show winners have been given a trip to Colorado Springs for an ANA seminar. It is the board that gives this trip, not the exhibit committee. There is a 3 year time interval before a winner can win another award. The trip must be taken within 2 subsequent seminars following the award. The junior best of show must meet the minimum ANA age requirement of 13 years. This is determined by the age when the award is given. There must be a minimum of 3 competitors in the category in order for this to happen. Last Fall at the show we had a youth of 12 who won best in show. He was not told that he had won a trip by Frank – but Patti Finner told him he was going. The board later decided to send him anyway, and he did turn 13 3 months later. Adults can win without regard to the number of competitors – a double standard. What Frank would like is for us to permit children who have enough points for a first place award to be also eligible to win the trip, regardless of the number of competitors. Joe LeBlanc felt that we have enough money, and should remove this restriction to be more encouraging.

Steve Marzilli moved that if a youth meets the judging requirements to be a first place winner to be eligible to go to Colorado Springs, he should be awarded it. If he does not meet the age requirement, we should hold the award until he does. Steve Friedman seconded it. Motion passed.

- C. Auctions Bill Summerell
Carl Tackett will assist in the writing up of a contract for the Fall, 2006 show auction
- D. Past Presidents Al Bobrofsky
No comments
- E. Mich-Matist Dr. Parks
Andy Parks thanked Mike Marotta for filling in for us on short notice as MichMatist editor. He said at that time that he would do it for two years, and this he did. He also thanked the new editor who is taking over now, Mike Strub
- F. Publicity Mike Marotta
Mike Marotta contacted 15 radio stations – no one was there. Wants to start now – as well as television and other outlets. He wants to develop a campaign and an information packet to ready these outlets for our 50th Anniversary convention. Dr. Parks said we should make a list of small newspapers in the area that we should be releasing information to via press releases. Bill Summerell said we should include an offer of free appraisals. Dany Rothfeld suggested dropping a valuable coin into circulation and publicizing it. Mike Marotta asked that suggestions come to him via email.
- G. Membership Larry Sekulich
Larry suggests that we include in our ads a coupon to join MSNS. A membership name tag could be made that distinguishes members from other attendees.
- H. Conv. Manual Al Bobrofsky
Many ammendments have been made – this is a mess at the moment.
- I. Conv. Committee Al Bobrofsky
No Comments.
- J. Finance Review Ann Bobrofsky
Ann reviewed the final figures from last year provided by Joe LeBlanc. All is in the hands of the CPA. President Finger also reviewed, and finds it all well done. President Finger would like approval of the board that his, Ann's, and Joe's acceptance of the paperwork allows it to be filed. The board informally agreed.

XV. Committee Appointments

- A. Carl Tackett is already appointed to a committee...

XVI. Board Member Comments

- Ann Bobrofsky– Exhibit committee really doing a good job, using email
Dr. Parks – Committees should meet and have a report at each meeting
Mike Dennany – At last meeting he requested a copy of the convention contract – where is it? We need it to be better informed. He has asked for it twice now.

XVII. General Membership Comments

- None additional.

XVIII. Adjournment – Mike Marotta moved, Larry Sekulich seconded. Motion approved at 7:40pm.