

Southern California Society of American Foresters  
Executive Committee Meeting/ Conference Call  
December 10, 2009

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Gubrud (Chair), Whitney (Chair-elect) Lopez, Conn, Todd, Bryant, Fritz, Lockard, Hanna, and Lydick

**Officer Reports:**

Chair's Report (Gubrud)

National has approved all of the revisions to the SoCal SAF By Laws that were submitted a few months ago. A copy of the new By Laws will be mail to every member for a formal vote of approval.

The new five foot diameter round was delivered to the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens on Nov. 7, 2009. Thanks to Jim Karl at Mountain Home for locating and donating the round. Thanks to Ironworks Landscape Services for treating/ finishing the round and setting up the display. Mountain Homes have also located an 18 foot diameter round that is also available. There is some transportation logistics that need to be worked out, but the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens might receive this second round. The staff was very happy to receive the five foot round, and are very excited at the possibility of a larger round.

Chair-elect Report (Whitney)

As we start a new year, we will also start a new term for Chair and Chair-elect. Dave Whitney will take over the position of Chair from Marty Gubrud starting January 1, 2010. However this leaves the Chair-elect position vacant. Nominations or any persons with an interest in this position should contact Dave Whitney.

The November SoCal SAF conference that was scheduled to be held at the Mt. Wilson Observatory was cancelled due to the *Station* fire. Dave Whitney and J Lopez are working on putting on a Spring conference back at the Mt. Wilson Observatory. They will start pursuing the matter after the New Year.

Dave Whitney attended the 2009 House of Society Delegates (HSD) meeting during his trip to the National Convention in Orlando, FL. There were five recommendations proposed:

- 1) SAF should support efforts to utilize small diameter wood in all possible markets including local scale energy
- 2) SAF Council and/ or National Office Staff develop standard minimum content and components for all SAF website at the Division, Chapter, State, and National level
- 3) HSD affirms its support for National Office Staff efforts to explore the feasibility of creating "alias" email accounts for SAF members
- 4) The 2009 HSD Chair explores the need for additional HSD awards for the State Societies, Divisions, and Chapter
- 5) Council should establish a committee, with Staff support, to address the issue of membership decline

There were many other topics discussed at this meeting as well. The following is a summarization of the House Society Delegates meeting:

- SAF broke even financially for 2008. It was commented that the membership dues have not been raised since 1998
- There will not be a 2010 Leadership Academy
- There needs to be a larger pool of nominations from across the country for the National Awards. Each Chapter should send in nominations by February 28, 2010
- Joe Smith would like some “Success Stories” for the *Forestry Source*. You can contact him via email.
- A motion was made to request that the Council modify the Loyalty Program so that the \$85 membership level is effective for five years post student membership rate regardless of membership lapses.

#### Secretary’s Report (Conn)

The August Minutes were approved 8-0-0. They will be posted on the SoCal webpage soon. I apologize for loosing the June Executive Committee notes; as such there will be no June Minuets.

#### Treasurer’s Report (Hanna)

The current budget is \$6,392.58. There are no outstanding debts at this time. Hanna is in the process of compiling the year end report. She requests that each Chapter have their year end report turned into her by March 1, 2010.

#### National Council (Julie Lydick)

There was a National Council meeting in early December. There were many topic discussed. Here is a summary of her report:

- The SAF budget will be in the red for 2009
- There will be a new Chief Financial Officer
- The National Convention is expected to bring in less revenue this year than compared to other convention years
- There will be no raises for the National Staff this year as well as a reduction in their 401K
- There is a big push to retain students after graduation and have greater student involvement
- “Trees are the Answer” campaign is off to a good start. The campaign still needs support from the local Chapters.
- The 2012 Convention will be held in Spokane, WA

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### Awards Chair (Hanna)

Fritz Koepp has been a member for fifty (50!) years now. He will be presented with his award the next time the SoCal Chapter meets. Congratulations!

#### Education/ C.F.E. Updates (Todd)

John Todd and John Bryant along with the Advisory Board for Cal Poly San Louis Obispo have put together a 10 week class, "Careers in Natural Resources". Every week there will be speakers brought in from every field to talk about job opportunities and careers. This class will also focus on interview skills and resume writing. Many of our SoCal members have been invited to be a speaker.

**Chapter Reports:**

San Gabriel Chapter

Kelly Kim has relinquished his position as San Gabriel Chapter Treasurer to new member Johann Lockard.

**2010 Calendar:**

NorCal annual meeting to be held in Sacramento - January 30

National Convention - October 27-31

Environmental Fair - March 13

Meeting adjourned at 1000 hours

Respectfully submitted by,  
Samantha Conn  
SoCal SAF Secretary