

NFSS BOD QUARTERLY MEETING
1st Quarter 2008

PRESENT: Bob Peers, Rebecca Mikel, Robert Mehl, Bill Parlee, Vonda Zwick, Tom Keegan, John Wilson, Andy Mordoh, Lisa Murphy, Sally Huntington, Laura Bewley, Michael Gravely, Cecil Gunby, Grant Rishman, Jason Crean, Katy Dodd, Sharon Dvorak, Paula Hansen, Gunnar Nitzkorski, Doug White, Ernesto Pollidura, Gwynne Willison, Brian Nagle, Roland Cristo

ABSENT:

RESIGNED: Gail Benson, Advertising/Promotions; Grant Rishman, Region 8 Vice-President

APPOINTED: Robert Mehl, Membership Director Pro Tem; Gunnar Nitzkorki, Region 5 VP Pro-Tem; Andy Mordoh, Webmaster. Bryan Nagle, Asst. Membership Director; Gwynne Willison, Advertising Manager; Roland Cristo, Legislative Liaison

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

President, Bob Peers

Meeting called to order on 2/1/08. Protocol for conducting the meeting reviewed.

1st VP John Wilson, Education/Regional VP's

List Serve set up for Regional VP's with primary purpose of allowing testing and forming of ideas before taking to the BOD. BOD becomes a more effective deliberative and executive body. Membership Director to provide contact info, by Region, to each VP which includes active members as well as those who haven't renewed. The Listserv should provide for a conversation encouraging recruiting and retention and sharing what works. The 1st VP welcomes new BOD members and thanks those who put NFSS 1st and returned to the BOD. We've recovered our composure on the both List serves and efforts will be to prod a topical husbandry conversation on the Forum.

2nd VP Andy Mordoh, Publishing, Website

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE: Up and running, comprised of 4 BOD members, Journal Editor, and 7 from General Membership. Currently working on ideas for the Journal and a brochure to be used to solicit membership. Future topics include the website.

JOURNAL: File went to the printer on 1/11/08, mailing list sent 1/21/08, journal mailed 1/28/08. Total cost was \$2107.25 – which includes all costs except the Editor's Fees. Mar/April issue is on schedule.

WEBSITE: All info regarding website and domain name now in NFSS's name; logins and passwords changed and shared; billing updated and future invoices will go to the Treasurer. 2nd VP will make contact with Editors of other journals with whom we have reciprocal agreement. Vonda Zwick agreed to serve as back up on website as needed. There is no record of the places on the Internet our site is listed, please contact the 2nd VP if you are aware of the listings.. Website is out of date and needs a dramatic overhaul. Plans are to redesign for unveiling next year – our 25th anniversary, and avenues for accomplishing being explored.

3rd VP Vonda Zwick – Finch/Softbill Save

Work continues on software and functionality issues. Census released on line and remains open until after Jan/Feb Journal – notice will be given prior to closing to allow add'l opportunity to participate. Exact numbers of persons reporting and quantities reported will be compiled and released. Finch Save Committee was established and additional participants are desired. A Yahoo! Group will be established to promote discussions, to archive information, and to provide access to administrators.

Census Results:

	FINCHES	SOFTBILLS	DOVE/QUAIL	TOTAL
# BIRDS ENTERED	6534	403	276	7213
# PARTICIPANTS	68	16	20	112
# SPECIES	112	92	20	224

4th VP, Cecil Gunby, Judge's Chair

The Zebra Finch standard is complete in hard copy; need to store electronically and forward for approval. Those judges who have not yet paid their judge's fees and/or membership fees were notified the deadline is this meeting or they'll be removed from current status. Cecil will post to the forum and ask for comments regarding what new specie standards, based on numbers exhibited, they would most like to see written. Once determined, each standard will be assigned to a 3-Judge Panel. Show season begins soon - affiliation agreement and request for facilities will be submitted.

TREASURER, Lisa Murphy

We had an interesting financial year. Started the year with \$5200 in bank, ended with \$16,000+. Highlights include cutting total Journal expenses by \$9,000 while paying for 7 journals instead of the normal 6 in 2007; increasing band sales by \$4,200; increasing advertising income from \$570 in 2006 to \$3,600+ in 2007; and an increase in membership income of \$3,100. All other departments within budget, with exception of "Misc" due to IRS issues (although we rec'd a total refund + interest of the penalty paid) and Election costs of \$1,396.64. We had a \$10,000 loss in 2006; in 2007 we had a profit of \$11,000+. As an added note, we paid \$694.24 in Pay Pal fees (deducted directly from the "Income" columns of the departments in which the sales occurred); and a

total of \$5,530.23 in postage (\$1,758.81 for other/misc. postage & \$3,771.42 for Journal postage) – Added to the “Expenses” columns of the respective departments. Lisa commends ALL of the BOD members for making this happen. Job well done!

2007 Year End Income/Expense Report:

DEPT	INCOME	EXPENSE
Bands	\$15,256.17	\$8,452.81
Membership	\$19,645.01	\$851.16
Advertising	\$3,670.45	\$0
Judge's Panel	\$220.00	\$263.20
Finch Shop	\$94.18	\$0
Affiliations	\$1,200.00	37.98
Awards	\$2,155.25	\$1,755.11
Journal	\$0	\$17,068.96
Finch Save	\$0	\$0
Misc.	\$3,205.24	\$5,564.30
TOTAL	\$45,446.30	\$33,993.52

Beginning Bank Balance (1/1/07): \$ 5,243.72
 Income Total: \$45,446.30
 Expense Total: \$33,993.52
 Ending Bank Balance (12/31/07): \$16,696.50
 Bank Balance as of 2/1/08: \$18,520.13

4th Quarter 2007 Department Reports (Oct-Dec)

DEPT	INCOME	EXPENSE
Bands	\$5,682.52	\$4,320.64
Membership	\$5,149.96	\$331.78
Advertising	\$803.83	\$0
Judge's Panel	\$0	\$0
Finch Shop	\$49.20	\$0
Affiliations	\$30.00	\$37.98
Awards	\$616.75	\$510.97
Journal	\$0	\$2,811.30
Finch Save	\$0	\$0
Misc.	\$452.44	\$1,827.26
TOTAL	\$12,784.70	\$9,839.93

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSE
October 2007	\$3,627.73	\$1,050.88
November 2007	\$3,002.23	\$3,704.22
December 2007	\$6,154.74	\$5,084.83
TOTAL	\$12,784.70	\$9,839.93

During the 4th quarter we paid for (1) 2008 closed band order, election cost of \$1,396.64, the 7th Journal for this year (instead of the normal 6). We ended the year with all expenses and invoices paid in full and a bank balance of \$16,696.50.

Anticipated expenses for the 1st Quarter of 2008 include: Two (2) 2008 closed band orders; Two (2) split band orders; AFA Affiliation Fee, Jan/Feb Journal, Postage Deposit for Mar/April Journal; and all other normal operating expenses.

2007 compared to 2006

DEPARTMENT	INCOME 2006	INCOME 2007	EXPENSE 2006	EXPENSE 2007
Bands	11,043.71	15,256.17	9639.13	8452.81
Membership	16,506.92	19,645.01	579.71	851.16
Advertising	570.00	3670.45	0	0
Judge's Panel	110.00	220.00	88.72	263.20
Finchshop	1231.50	94.18	3104.43	0
Affiliations	600.00	1200.00	0	37.98
Awards	1655.50	2155.25	1807.41	1755.11
Journal	0	0	26,015.61	17,068.96
Misc.	904.20	3205.24	1836.12	5564.30
Finchsava	15.00	0	0	0
TOTAL	32,636.83	45,446.30	43,071.13	33,993.52

SECRETARY, Rebecca Mikel

On January 2, President states intent to call emergency meeting to: 1) Appoint Pro Tem Membership Director; 2) Appoint Pro Tem Regional V.P. for Region 5; 3) Appoint Andy Mordoh as Web Master. After the required number (4) of BOD members state their approval for such a meeting, meeting was convened with 19 BOD members in attendance

The following motions were made:

#2008-01 – To Appoint Robert Mehl Pro Tem Membership Director until a special election can be held to fill the position.
BY: John Wilson 2nd: Lisa Murphy RESULT: Pass

#2008-02 – To Appoint Gunnar Nitzkowski as Pro Tem Region 5 V.P. until a special election can be held.
BY: Rebecca Mikel 2nd: Vonda Zwick RESULT: Pass

#2008-03 – To Appoint Andy Mordoh as Web Master (non-voting, appointed position)
BY: John Wilson 2nd: Robert Mehl RESULT: Pass

#2008-04 – To adjourn the Emergency Meeting
BY: John Wilson 2nd: Paula Hansen RESULT: Pass

Meeting adjourned on 1/9/08.

Continuing to develop Events Calendar with deadlines for BOD activity.

MEMBERSHIP/AFFILIATIONS/AWARDS, Robert Mehl Ended 2007 with 659 Members; (559 single (including the first member of a dual membership), 84 dual, 9 foreign, 1 foreign junior, and 6 juniors.) We became aware of some members experiencing financial difficulties resulting their inability to renew their membership with NFSS. As a result, there were “gift memberships” donated through the generous offers of other members. Every effort was made to contact non-renewing members and request they renew. The current Membership Director (Pro Tem), has offered to assist with the transition of the new Membership Director at the conclusion of the Special Election.

BANDS, Paula Hansen

Band orders for 2008 bands was split into 5 separate orders rather than the normal 3. This increased shipping costs but spread out the expense of the bands. Researching band samples from new companies – waiting on samples from S. America. Will need to test for quality and any other issues.

FINCH SHOP, Sharon Dvorak

There were 5 sales transactions with Café Press during the 4th quarter, 2007. Earnings for the quarter were \$49.20. We currently have credits of \$12.09 and once that reaches \$25; a check will be issued to NFSS. Andy Mordoh, 2nd VP, has the information for Victory Engraving and is in the process of getting it uploaded to the website.

REGIONAL VP's

No reports at this time

EDITOR, Katy Dodd

See 2nd V.P. Report (Andy Mordoh) above.

ADVERTISING/PROMOTIONS, Gail Benson

Advertising Income – 4th Quarter:

October 2007	\$459.00
November 2007	\$ 28.83
December 2007	<u>\$316.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$803.83

\$ 803.834th Quarter Advertising Income
\$ 518.623rd Quarter Advertising Income
\$ 720.362nd Quarter Advertising Income
\$1,627.641st Quarter Advertising Income
\$3,670.45TOTAL 2007 ADVERTISING INCOME

\$559.83 January 2008 Advertising Income

Election Committee – Bob Peers (Membership, Region 5VP)

Upcoming special elections will occur for Region 5 & Region 8 VP's and Membership Director. Bob Peers and Lisa Murphy will develop the ballots; Gail Benson will rec'v and count ballots, with Bob Peers and Vonda Zwick witnessing the count. The ballot for the Membership Director will go into the Mar/April issue; the Region 5 & Region 8 V.P. ballots will go into the May/June issue. The V.P. positions will first be announced in the Mar/April Journal and all members given the opportunity to announce their interest in the positions before the ballots are presented for voting.

Election Procedures Committee (Tom Keegan)

The goal of this committee will be to assess strengths and weaknesses of current election system and propose a new set of policies and procedures for consideration by the BOD for future elections. This committee will operate outside the "Policies & Procedures Committee" as that committee has the larger task of dealing with a wide range of issues from across the entire organization. (See Motion #2008-05)

Education Committee (John Wison)

See 1st V.P. report above.

By law Review Committee (Bill Parlee)

The Committee is proceeding with all due diligence with the review. Thoughtful discussion occurring on each and every paragraph. Corrections have been made to content, grammar, and punctuation. Renumbering is occurring to correct errors made in the last revision. The focus is clarification, not change, although there is considerable new wording regarding electronic nature of the meetings. The goal is to present our draft to the BOD during the 2nd Quarter Meeting. The committee is also working in conjunction with Tom Keegan – Chairperson for Policies and Procedures Committee – and pointing out areas which will need to be addressed by that Committee.

Dept. Back Up Committee (Bob Peers)

The committee is reviewing and making minor changes to documents and will report to BOD at next meeting.

Policies & Procedures Committee (Tom Keegan)

This Committee is on hold until the By Law Review Committee has completed their work.

Membership Directory Committee (Rebecca Mikel)

Committee Chair requested to be relieved of his responsibilities with this committee. It is his impression this project is one which should be chaired by the Membership Director. Once a new Membership Director is seated and has established a level of familiarity with the normal day-to-day responsibilities of the position, this project may be revisited. (See Motion #2008-07)

Champion of Section Committee (Rebecca Mikel)

The Chairperson for this committee no longer serves on the BOD. This topic was discussed in prior BOD meeting & Chairperson agreed to conduct trial run and report back to the BOD. The BOD recommends he conduct this trial throughout 2008 show season. Reporting criteria to assist the BOD in determining feasibility and value of implementing program was developed and forwarded to him. Once reporting criteria is met and presented to the BOD, this topic will be added to the 1st Quarter 2009 BOD meeting agenda

Bonding of Financially Responsible Officers (Paula Hansen)

Information was to be gathered and reported to the BOD by the prior Chairperson, but no information has been presented. Violations involving theft are covered by Federal Law. Security measures are in place to protect our funds transferred via Pay Pal. Banking security procedures are also in place for the Treasurer and all checks are approved by the President. Quarterly reports of all financial transactions are posted for review by the entire BOD. NFSS is audited annually and follows procedures as outlined by the IRS for non-profit status. In the past, inventory counts and subsequent reporting was conducted annually; those are now performed monthly. It was agreed this committee would be disbanded at this time. (See Motion # 2008-06)

Publishing Committee (Andy Mordoh)

New Membership Brochures have been posted for review and comment by the BOD. Regional VP's are asked to submit info relevant to their regions for a new column to debut in the May/June Journal.

Finch Save Committee (Vonda Zwick)

See 3rd V.P. Report above

OLD BUSINESS

Posting Agenda to Forums (Bob Peers)

The agenda for this meeting was published to the Husbandry and the PP forums 10 days prior to the date on which the meeting was convened. It was preceded on both forums by an announcement from the BOD in which all members were encouraged to review the agenda and contact any BOD member with questions, comments, or input they wished to have presented during the upcoming BOD meeting. The BOD reports there was no communication rec'd from any member in response to this request. Future agendas will be posted 10 days prior to all BOD meetings. Any updates to those agendas will be posted immediately to both forums. Changes to the agenda will be made only when felt to be absolutely necessary.

Affiliated Club Vote (Doug White)

Affiliated Clubs have been voting in all elections for some time now. Club Delegate is no longer required to be an NFSS member, but voting has continued. Primary concerns center around one person having multiple votes which may not necessarily reflect the wishes of the club they represent and lack of viable verification. During a prior BOD meeting a vote was taken on this matter to

provide clarity for the upcoming special elections. The purpose of this discussion relates to future General Elections. (See Motion #2008-09)

Audits (Lisa Murphy)

2005 AUDIT

Tom Keegan and Sharon Dvorak have completed the audit of the 2005 financial records and submitted their Report. Their summary includes the following points:

- Tax forms, transactions, back up documentation, and approvals present and consistent with bank account records
- Inadequate format for tracing expenditure approvals by the President
- An \$11,000 decrease in cash and cash equivalents from the end of 2004 to the end of 2005 (From \$22,000 down to \$11,000)
- A \$17,000 decrease in net assets from the end of 2004 to the end of 2005 (From \$24,000 to \$7,000)
- While no problems with funds being accounted for, assets were not managed in a manner that would be sustainable for the continuing viability of the Society

2006 AUDIT

Sharon Dvorak has conducted the first half of the 2006 records; Rebecca Mikel will complete the 2nd. Once this has been completed, volunteers from the BOD for the audit of the 2007 financial records will be needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Coord. Ed. Efforts w/other Avicultural Orgs (Paula Hansen)

Sharon Dvorak announces AFA is seeking speakers for their annual convention in St Louis, Missouri (7/29-8/2/08). Criteria for selection was provided.

We are currently affiliated with AFA. Paula reviewed some of their sponsored programs for youth and others for affiliated clubs. Other organizations with whom we might affiliate include NAIA (National Animal Interest Alliance), ASA (Avicultural Society of America), and OPA (Organization for Professional Aviculturists). Benefits offered by each was discussed. NAIA is involved with monitoring of legislation pertaining to the rights of animal owners; ASA focuses on bird breeding, conservation, restoration, and education, & OPA is another organization involved in monitoring legislation. (See Motion #2008-10)

NCBS (Speakers, Raffle, Advertising, Sponsorships.) (Paula Hansen)

The National Caged Bird Show (NCBS) to be in Lansing, Michigan, November 20-22, 2008, at the Radisson Hotel and Lansing Convention Center. We are to begin preparations for soliciting/gathering items for the sale & raffle tables and silent auction. Items do not need to be bird related. NFSS banner needs replacing and should contain the new NFSS logo. Consideration to be given to Finch Shop items available on display/for sale.

Sally Huntington to manage Afternoon of Aviculture (AOA), an education seminar held on Thursday with time for 3-4 speakers. Judge's Clinic to be held again and is one of the most requested topics. Persons with suggestions for topics or speakers to contact Sally Huntington.

NFSS rec'd request to partner with 4 other divisions (2 Lovebird, 1 Parrot, 1 Cockatiel) in sponsoring new award at NCBS. Highest award at the NCBS is "Best in Show" or the "Scannel" award. This award is determined by the votes of all Division Judges at the NCBS each year. As there are a significant number of Canary Divisions, there is also a significantly higher number of Canary Judges. As a result, the Scannel award is typically awarded to a Canary. The new award to be presented to the bird considered "Best Foreign Bird" and be determined by a vote of the judges from the 5 Divisions noted above. It excludes Canaries, but includes top winning bird from each of the 5 Divisions & would enable the Finch division to compete more fairly for Best in Show. It also aligns us with the 4 other organizations dealing with the same challenges each year. The award means an additional \$100 per year commitment by each organization for the next four (4) years. Our finances are in order thanks to current Treasurer's prudent management and efforts of all other officers in bringing our expenses back in line with our income. (See Motion #2008-11).

A lapel pin with the NFSS logo offered by the Finch Shop in the past was one of the biggest selling items by volume. Quotes have been procured and are at a level which would allow us to recognize a fair profit. Want to make them available soon and be sure to have available for NCBS. (See Motion #2008-12)

Mailing Fees for out of country Journals (Robert Mehl)

Current price structure for foreign membership/affiliation fees does not cover our costs. Discussion about raising their membership/affiliation fees. There have been issues with the quality of service provided to foreign members in the recent past and until we are assured those have been addressed, discussions of price increases are temporarily suspended.

Membership Fund (small Group) (Tom Keegan)

Discussion of allowing members to donate an additional \$1-\$2 at the time they purchase their own memberships which would be placed into an account and used to assist members experiencing financial hardships and unable to pay for NFSS membership. We have no way of verifying the legitimacy of financial situations of members and will, instead, encourage the "gift membership" option as discussed near the holiday season 2007.

Home Address in Journal (Bill Parlee)

The official home address of the Society, to be listed in the Journal, will be that of the Treasurer as this is where all invoices, IRS forms, etc. are sent. (See Motion #2008-15)

Appointed Positions (Bob Peers – Legislative Liaison, Advertising, Asst. Editor)

By a consensus of the BOD, the following appointments were made: Legislative Affairs – Roland Cristo, Legislative Liaison; & Gwynne Willison, Advertising Manager.

Bryan Nagle, as the only candidate for Membership Director, has been appointed to a position created by the BOD as “Assistant Membership Director” and will serve in this position until the results of the Special Election are known. (See Motion #2008-13). Robert Mehl, Membership Director Pro Tem has met with Bryan personally to review responsibilities & will work closely with Bryan to begin transition of responsibilities. Should another candidate step forward as a write-in candidate during the Special Election and receive the winning votes; Robert will extend the same courtesy.

All positions are appointed and non-voting assignments.

Editor Stipend (Andy Mordoh)

Changes in the dates for the Editor submitting a publishable copy of the Journal to the Printer suggested. As the Editor’s stipend is an incentive for meeting established deadlines as opposed to an actual salary, the 2nd VP will be responsible for confirming all deadlines are met and notifying the Treasurer. Any schedule changes needed will be announced/published. (See Motion #2008-16).

Advertising on Forums (John Wilson)

President and other BOD members rec’d contact by concerned members regarding level of advertising and responses on the forum. President was also presented with concerns regarding a private transaction and asked to intervene. The situation was resolved by the 2 parties involved, but NFSS cannot be involved between 2 parties in a business transaction.

Advertisements have become a regular feature of the forums. Concerns are not with advertising itself, but with the negotiations and testimonials which were also conducted publicly on the forums. Accepting positive feedback meant the negative would need to be accepted as well. It is not felt to be in the best interest of NFSS to use the forums for arguing out the details of a transaction in which someone was unhappy. Complaints received by BOD members from members validated the concerns. As a result, the following policy was developed and posted to the forums and is effective immediately:

1. Advertisements for birds and bird-related items may be placed by NFSS members for their personal sales or for others. The NFSS does not endorse sellers, warranty the accuracy of advertising, or become involved in disputes arising from sales.
2. All advertisements must have a **BOLD TYPE** sentence directing interested parties to contact information and requiring that inquiries and negotiations be private.
3. Friday and Saturday are advertisement days and ads placed on other days are off topic.
4. Subscribers should generally limit themselves to one advertisement per week, understanding that corrections or changes in availability may require revisions, (Friday and Saturday still applies)
5. Discussions about particular vendors, both positive and negative, are off topic on the forum and efforts to convey these views must be limited to offers of private conversation.
6. Failure to adhere to the advertising policy may result in warnings and message moderation.

A footer has been added on the forum(s) which reads as follows:

The reuse or publication of any post to the NFSS list is to be contingent on the receipt of express permission from the author. Opinions expressed on this list are solely the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily the opinions of the National Finch and Softbill Society.

MOTIONS

MOTION	BY	2nd	Motion	Result
2008-05	Keegan	Mordoh	*See Below	Pass
2008-06	Mikel	Murphy	Disband the Bonding of Financially Responsible Officers Committee	Pass
2008-07	Hansen	Wilson	Table the Membership Directory Committee until 3 rd Quarter Meeting	Pass
2008-08	Mikel	Mordoh	To accept audit of 2005 Financial Records by Dvorak & Keegan	Pass
2008-09	Mehl	Mordoh	**SEE BELOW	Pass

2008-10	Wilson	Mikel	NFSS will join the ASA and NAIA at the \$100 Membership level	Pass
2008-11	Mehl	Murphy	***SEE BELOW	Pass
2008-12	Mehl	Mikel	Increase Finch Shop Budget by \$300 to purchase NFSS Logo Pins	Pass
2008-13	Mehl	Murphy	Appoint Bryan Nagle Asst. Membership Director until results of Special Election are known	Pass
2008-14	Mehl	Hansen	****SEE BELOW	Pass
2008-15	Murphy	Mehl	^SEE BELOW	Pass
2008-16	Mordoh	Bewley	#SEE BELOW	Pass
2008-17	Mehl	Hansen	To accept minutes and adjourn 1 st Quarter 2008 meeting	Pass

***2008-05:** An Election Procedures Committee will be formed in order to examine past practices and make recommendations for future election policies and procedures. Tom Keegan will serve as the initial chairperson of this committee.

****2008-09:** The By-Law Committee, in their current revision process, will assure the By Laws clearly state Affiliated Clubs are not allowed a ballot/vote.

*****2008-11:** The NFSS will participate in the NCBS Award for "Best Foreign Bird" which obligates us to contribute an additional \$100 per year to NCBS for the next four (4) years.

******2008-14:** Effective 5/1/08, all memberships and affiliations outside of the U.S. and its territories be increased to \$42 for their respective fees. There will be no multi-year pricing for foreign memberships or affiliations.

^2008-15: The principle home office address of the Society will be that of the Treasurer of the organization, and so publicized in the Journal of the organization. The Board of Directors may at it's option change this address as required, but in any case shall remain as static as possible as the determined address shall be the official address for communicating with the Society.

#2008-16: The motion adopted in November of 1995 in which the Editor's stipend was tied to having the Journal post-marked to the Treasurer by the 1st day of the 2nd month of the Journal will be rescinded. It will be replaced with a motion "The Editor must have a publishable Journal to the printer by the 10th day of the first month of the Journal OR the 1st business day following the 10th if the 10th falls on a weekend or a business holiday".

NEXT MEETING: May 1, 2008
AGENDA for this meeting will be posted on 4/21/08