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NEWS & NOTES

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We've concluded a Board Meeting-by-mail and this time 13 of the 18 members participated. That is the good news. The not-so-good news is that we're about to lose one of the members of the Board. Don Locke, Jr., Regional Vice President for Region 5, Mountain to Desert (in Martha Wigmore's words) has submitted his resignation. Due to personal considerations beyond his control he says that he has withdrawn from the Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture and he feels that "he cannot serve NFS to your best interests." Don, the Board and the membership want to thank you for what you have done and to wish you all the best in the future.

NFS members in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming....this is a call for your assistance. We need a nominee to fill Don's term until January 1994. Please consider NFS members who you feel will be active in your area and send their names, after seeking their approval of course, to the home office.

Our Band Secretary reports that we've (or rather she, with her usual efficiency) has sold 27,810 bands as of September 8th. WOW! As things stand now Denise will be in Okiahoma City with order forms for the 1993 bands. Hate to tell you this but there will have to be a price increase to cover our costs. Not much of a jump though...just to \$2.75 a string of ten. Still just costs you 27 1/2 cents to make your domestically bred chicks eligible for NFS Championship points. Cheap (or is that Cheep?).

Miki Sparzak, the treasurer, reports that we have total cash assets of \$13,550.44 as of 9/11/92. and all bills are paid up to date. She's the Membership Services Chair too and says "the actual member count, including affiliated clubs is up to 951. Renewals are coming in very well, the new labeling/stamping system is working well and everything is wonderful now that all the bugs have been worked out of my computer. I love my position in Membership Services and hope to add to the new and improved Society". What more could you ask?

Russ is cool, calm and competent - as usual - he got one very late affiliation this year and handled it with his usual efficiency. Things are rolling along well with the NFS Affiliated clubs.

Al's sending letters to all heads of all Standards Committees, asking for written reports on their progress to be reviewed in November. The Mynah Standard Committee needs a Chair and he is looking for volunteers for that...lots of help available...we just need a Chief! He says all is quiet in the reporting of points right now..that'll change in the next few months! He has one apprentice scheduled to take a test this fall and is expecting to schedule at least two more.

I'm thrilled to tell you that Linda Oja's report on FINCHSAVE is so good and so extensive that it deserves and got a page of its' own!! Three things I want to mention here are that she's looking for a special logo...see the neat one that Laura Sherman sent in...do you have an idea too? Also, those of you who are skilled on computers could be of assistance to the FINCHSAVE Committee if you would contact her and network with them on a format for a FINCHSAVE Census. We need a liaison to the United States Postal Service to attempt to change their regulations about Express Mailing finches. Do you work for them? Do you have a contact person with them? If so, please contact Linda.

Jerrys' new job is keeping him on the road or in front of his computer for 60 to 70 hours each week. He reports that all of the FINCHSHOP orders are "basically caught up" (some may be tardy due to me...I had to photocopy some things to send to him so he could send them out and I had a tough time finding the time to do it) and that all is going semi-smoothly. (Again, it may be my fault if it's not all smooth...check before you blame Jerry.) What with all of the tension he is under he might not make it to New Orleans or Oklahoma City. Can you imagine one of those big shows without his help?

Even worse -- Chris Voronovitch isn't able to come to the Nationals this year! One of the Founding Mothers who has done a dozen jobs very well for the Society and is quietly carrying a very heavy load sorting and sending out those plaques and rosettes with no complaints or quarrels and now we won't get to hug her this November!

Speaking of hugs, you'll want to look for Martha Wigmore and Jon Hoffman on the show circuit this year and hug them! The new version of the Handbook is GRAND and they are responsible. It should be available by the time you receive this issue...no price set yet...check with Jerry.

We're hoping (not sure yet) to have Jon's videotaped slide show "An Introduction to Finches & Softbills" in New Orleans and we're 99% sure it'll be at Oklahoma City. Jon says it's great and he is a tough critic.

Regional Vice Presidents 1, 2 and 3 are reporting affiliations are up, memberships are up, and enthusiasm for FINCHSAVE and the show season are up!

New business that the Board considered included accepting Jim Foxwell's suggestion to order canvas tote bags with the NFS logo imprinted. We're planning to have them for sale in Oklahoma City for the first time.

The Board voted to have the owners of the Champion birds decide which worthy avicultural cause the cash donation should go to, and the Board decided that the appropriate amount would be \$50 in honor of each NFS Champion bird. Of course, this is in addition to the commemorative award made to each owner at the National Show. You might find it interesting that Tom Rood (owner of two of the first Champions) suggested that the award to the owners should be a brand-new Chevy mini-van. When that idea got stomped by the rest of the Board he tried a compromise by suggesting a used Chevy minivan. We stomped that one too. Unanimously. Sorry Tom, nice try. Chris Voronovitch is keeping the descriptions of those awards a big secret - you'll have to be in Oklahoma City to find out!

Thanks to the advice of several NFS computer experts NFS is now the

owner of a scanner which is working like a champ and a modem which will make it possible for a direct link between this computer and the membership services computer, Region Two's Vice President's computer and the FINCHSAVE Director's computer. Isn't high-technology great?

We still need more volunteers to man (woman?) the NFS table in New Orleans and Oklahoma City and to help as secretaries and stewards. I was really pleased to get a call from a novice member who really wants to be either a secretary or steward in New Orleans. What a neat opportunity for her to learn a lot in a hurry and have a good time doing it! You should seize this opportunity too!

We're looking for new ideas for designs for T-shirts, a FINCHSAVE logo and a replacement for the rather cryptic logo down in the left corner of the Bulletin cover. Help! I can't even draw a stick figure that is recognizable, let alone a bird.

The Board approved donating five free memberships as raffle (or whatever) awards to the very first Puerto Rican National show, scheduled for this December. Also the Board voted to permit any Board member to give away three (3) free memberships annually to deserving finch fanciers. It is suggested that these go to exhibitors who do well in shows and are not members, to novices who express a sincere interest, as awards at shows for most entries, first time exhibitors, best novice, to folks who come up with the best design ideas for logos, etc. The final decision on who to give these free memberships to will rest with each Board member. We all have confidence in each others common sense and good judgment and we know that the members do too.

Our last item of business is the Board approval of an award to be given annually to the best softbill in the National Cage Bird Show. This award will be in honor of Dr. Val Clear and will carry his name. The original suggestion was made by John Bennett, one of the many friends and admirers of Dr. Clear. I think it is a very suitable way to honor his memory and the contributions he made to the cage bird fancy.

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN NEW ORLEANS
AND IN OKLAHOMA CITY AND ALONG
THE WAY ON THE SHOW CIRCUIT.
BEST WISHES, BEST OF LUCK AND
TRAVEL SAFELY THIS FALL.
