

NFSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2007

Meeting called to Order by Sally Huntington, President, November 30, 2007

**PRESENT:** Sally Huntington, Rebecca Mikel, Lisa Murphy, Bob Peers, Cecil Gunby, Tom Keegan, Bill Parlee, Gail Benson, Tim Wiesemann, Ginny Allen, Robert Mehl, Alfred Mion, Rasperry, Paula Hansen, Katy Dodd, Sharon Dvorak, Doug White, Laura Bewley, Danny Gonzales, Harry Bryant, Ron Castner

**ABSENT:** Roberto Rosa

**RESIGNATIONS:** Terry Cox, Region 5 V.P.; Steven Stice (Resigned in August & also officially notified the BOD he was declining the position of Membership Director, for which he was elected during the General Election)

**APPOINTMENTS:** Gunnar Nitzkowski, Region 5 V.P.

This meeting is continued from the NCBS held in Denver, Colorado 11/15-18/2007

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**PRESIDENT – SALLY HUNTINGTON**

**Outgoing/Prior BOD Service Awards:** Brenda Josselet (Membership); Jim Heffernan (Region 3 VP, Exec. Secretary); Wick Goss (1<sup>st</sup> VP, Finch Shop); Armando Lee (1<sup>st</sup> VP); Rasperry (Region 6 VP); Ron Castner (Region 2 VP); Robert Rosa (Region 7 VP); & Danny Gonzales (3<sup>rd</sup> VP).

**2006 Champion Exhibitors:** KJ Brown, Kathleen Clark, Lisa Murphy

**2007 Bill Parlee Award:** (highest placing Finch at NCBS) Lisa Murphy, Parson Finch

**2007 Val Clear Award:** (highest placing Softbill at NCBS) Sally Huntington, Blue Gray Tanager

**Election Results :** General Election results announced, 201 total ballots cast .

**1<sup>st</sup> V.P. – BOB PEERS**

Educational Q&A column continues as educational resource. Members encouraged to submit questions to 1<sup>st</sup>/Regional VP's.

**2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. – HARRY BRYANT**

Revised leg band prices on website; 2006 census results posted along with link to 2007 FSS forms. Links to the merchandise at Café Press included, but not those for Victory Engraving. Judge's Handbook being formatted/sent to 4<sup>th</sup> VP for approval and/or changes. Bonding of Financially Responsible Officers Committee continues reviewing proposals.

**3<sup>rd</sup> V.P. – DANNY GONZALES**

CENSUS: Available to NFSS members and non-members ; info recd from both tracked & results printed in the Journal.

FSS: Users can select by taxonomic or common names and add species; Administrators can edit and delete species. Documentation created to define how software is organized and functions and sent with test pages to FSS Committee. The system handles subspecies but excludes mutations unless they are naturally occurring and sustainable in the wild (e.g. Gouldian head color)

**4<sup>th</sup> V.P. – CECIL GUNBY**

Zebra standard nearing completion, 2 new persons have taken/passed Judge's Test – Grant Rishman and Vince Moase (from Canada). 2006 Champion Exhibitors: K.J. Brown, Lisa Murphy, Kathleen Clark.

**LIAISON/AFFILIATIONS – DOUG WHITE**

44 clubs affiliated with NFSS, 3 new ones rec'd during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2007.

**BANDS – PAULA HANSEN**

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Income: \$1847.68; Expenses \$129.90. Total of 313 strings of aluminum bands remain unsold and is lost income. In July of 2007, 2008 band order included 2791 aluminum and 880 split plastic bands.

**MEMBERSHIP – ROBERT MEHL**

Total membership at end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter is 664 (477 single, 85 dual primary, 86 dual secondary, 7 foreign, 9 junior). Income through the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter is \$14,505.75, expenses were \$519.38. Renewals continue to arrive as a result of post-cards sent to memberships expiring earlier in the year.

**TREASURER – LISA MURPHY**

In Jan. 2007 we had \$5,200 in the bank and expenses in excess of that. Beginning bank balance for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter: \$13,151.57; Ending balance \$13,751.53; 11/1/07 balance: \$16,328.56 – with no outstanding invoices. Anticipated expenses include 2007 election, December band order, Nov/Dec 2007 Journal, normal operating expenses, and invoices from Victory Engraving and Feico Inc. for awards and plaques.

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2007

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
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July 2007	\$4,798.18	\$1,660.50
Aug 2007	\$2,108.47	\$3,996.17
Sept 2007	\$2,749.41	\$3,399.23
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$9,656.06</b>	<b>\$9,055.90</b>

3rd Quarter By Department

DEPARTMENT	INCOME	EXPENSES
Bands	\$1,847.68	\$ 129.90
Membership	\$4,443.92	\$ 47.90
Journal	\$ 0	\$7,099.14
Awards	\$ 226.00	\$ 454.50
Affiliations	\$ 210.00	\$ 0
Advertising	\$ 518.62	\$ 0
Finchshop	\$ 34.60	\$ 0
Finch Save	\$ 0	\$ 0
Judges Panel	\$ 0	\$ 263.20
Misc	\$2,375.24	\$1,061.26
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$9,656.06</b>	<b>\$9,055.90</b>

Beginning Bank Balance: \$13,151.57  
Ending Bank Balance: \$13,751.73  
Current Bank Balance (as of 11/1/07) \$16,328.58

YTD Totals 1/1-9/3/07

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES
Jan	\$ 7,097.53	\$ 5,868.09
Feb	\$ 4,156.80	\$ 1,084.38
Mar	\$ 3,778.27	\$ 2,279.61
Apr	\$ 2,754.82	\$ 1,750.87
May	\$ 2,927.17	\$ 3,911.58
June	\$ 2,290.95	\$ 203.16
July	\$ 4,798.18	\$ 1,660.50
Aug	\$ 2,108.47	\$ 3,996.17
September	\$ 2,749.41	\$ 3,399.23
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$32,661.60</b>	<b>\$24,153.59</b>

YTD Totals by Department

DEPARTMENT	INCOME	EXPENSES
Bands	\$ 9,562.95	\$ 4,132.17
Membership	\$14,505.75	\$ 519.38
Advertising	\$ 2,866.62	\$ 0
Judges Panel	\$ 220.00	\$ 263.20
FinchShop	\$ 44.98	\$ 0
Affiliations/Awards	\$ 2,708.50	\$ 1,244.14
Journal	\$ 0	\$14,257.66
Misc.	\$ 2,752.80	\$ 3,737.04
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$32,661.60</b>	<b>\$24,153.59</b>

Proposed 2008 Budget compared to Approved 2006 and 2007 Budgets:

DEPARTMENT	INCOME			EXPENSE		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Bands	\$14,200.00	\$11,950.00	\$13,500.00	\$11,993.73	<b>*\$6,009.00</b>	\$10,000.00
Finch Shop	\$3,300.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,800.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Membership	\$22,687.00	\$22,500.00	\$17,625.00	\$2,350.00	\$1,450.00	\$1,400.00
Awards	\$2,250.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,850.00	\$2,325.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,800.00
Affiliations	\$1,250.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Finch Save	\$300.00	\$0	\$0	\$390.00	\$0	\$120.00
1 <sup>st</sup> VP/Regional VP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000.00	200.00	\$200.00
4 <sup>th</sup> VP/Judge's Panel	\$240.00	\$230.00	\$230.00	\$350.00	<b>*\$0</b>	\$150.00
Misc	\$500.00	\$850.00	\$450.00	\$1,495.00	\$615.00	\$2,850.00
Journal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$26,982.00	\$27,012.00	\$17,000.00
Advertising	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0	\$400.00	\$400.00
Website	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$149.50	\$150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46,727.00</b>	<b>\$41,780.00</b>	<b>\$38,155.00</b>	<b>\$48,885.00</b>	<b>**\$38,135.50</b>	<b>\$34,770.00</b>
<b>PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>(\$2,158.73)</b>	<b>***\$3,644.50</b>	<b>\$3,385.00</b>	<b>(\$2,158.73)</b>	<b>***\$3,644.50</b>	<b>\$3,385.00</b>

This chart reflects the approved budget numbers.

\*These 2 departments increased their 2007 budgets (with full board approval) as follows:

Bands: Increased \$6009.00 by \$2200.00 = \$8209.00

4<sup>th</sup> VP: Increased \$0.00 by \$263.20 = \$263.20

\*\*Revised total expenses approved for 2007 changed to \$40,598.70

\*\*\*Revised total profit for 2007 changed to \$1,181.30

#### **FINCH SHOP – SHARON DVORAK**

Continue to use Café Press and Victory Engraving/Design. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Income is \$34.60; Expenses: \$0. Website doesn't include Victory Engraving items. This impacts income potential as profits from those items can assist in developing our own inventory. Current vendors offer more items than we can afford to carry ourselves. Net Profit for the year is only \$94; however, we've only operated for ¾ of the year and advertising on the NFSS website is incomplete. Items available at no cost or within our \$500 budget to be researched. Keeping current vendors in place and supplementing with items unique to Finches is most beneficial. When website advertising is complete, an article in the Journal asking about items members want available may stimulate orders. Although profits are lower, current approach is the most fiscally responsible, & there has been no investment in inventory.

#### **AWARDS – BOB PEERS**

To date 24 orders for a total income of \$1,980.00.

#### **ADVERTISING – GAIL BENSON**

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Income for Advertising was \$518.62; 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter was \$720.36, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter was \$1,627.64, for a YTD Income of \$2,866.62.

#### **SECRETARY – REBECCA MIKEL**

"Events Calendar" created to assist with accountability for deadlines of major events & responsibilities. Work continues on Outstanding Business items assigned during prior meetings.

Special meeting called by Sally Huntington on 10/14/07 to vote on accepting Robert Mehl as Membership Director, Pro Tem. 16 BOD members present. Lisa Murphy motioned to accept; seconded by Danny Gonzales. A majority vote for Robert to serve in this position Pro-Tem. Harry Bryant motioned to close the meeting; Raspberry seconded. Meeting closed on 10/19/07.

The proposed by-law amendment, which would have required the publication of individual BOD members' votes on all motions in the BOD meeting minutes, and which was presented to the membership for a vote, did not pass. Voting results are as follows:

IN FAVOR: 11 Members, 1 Affiliate  
OPPOSED: 24 Members, 10 Affiliates

#### **REGION 1 V.P. – TOM KEEGAN**

The Volunteer Clearinghouse was announced on both forums and in the Journal. Robert Mehl is also including volunteer applications in new member packets. We have had one response.

#### **REGION 6 V.P. – RASPBERRY**

A copy of the Lifetime Membership article was submitted for inclusion in the Journal.

#### **EDITOR – KATY DODD**

Journal submission deadline timelines being set back to the following dates

<u>JOURNAL</u>	<u>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</u>
Jan/Feb	12/20 – recommend earlier due to holidays
Mar/Apr	2/25
May/June	4/25
Jul/Aug	6/25
Sept/Oct	8/25
Nov/Dec	10/25

Printer needs affiliate and membership mailing list by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of each Journal (i.e. Jan 15, Mar 15, May 15, etc.). This is in line with the deadline for members who purchase or renew memberships for rec'g the current issue of the Journal and is necessary to ensure accuracy with ordered quantities.

#### **FORUM(S) – JOHN WILSON**

349 members on the Husbandry forum and 92 on the PP forum. Robert has worked to bring membership and subscribers under control and in the process cleaned up data base e mail addresses as well as prodded a good number of renewals.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**AUDITS:** Tom Keegan is in the process of completing the 2005 audit. Harry Bryant returned the 2006 records to Lisa Murphy on 11/19/07; audit was not completed and will be reassigned after the holidays

**YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP:** Raspberry is wrapping up the information he has gathered and will present at a later time.

**NEW BOARD PACKETS:** New/incoming BOD members will be directed to electronic copies of information available on the website. Ginny Allen will forward to Rebecca any information she has compiled during her year serving as Transition Coordinator

**LINKS ON NFSS WEBSITE FOR VICTORY ENGRAVING:** Not yet complete

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **FROM THE FLOOR AT NCBS:**

Suggestion for name change from **National** Finch and Softbill Society to **International** Finch and Softbill Society. We do not presently represent international communities in the hobby in terms of exhibition and education. This change would require a by-law change and the topic is tabled at this time.

Clarence Culwell reminds us of the need to submit the names of 3 judges for consideration for the 2008 NCBS and urges that the names be persons with whom contact has been made to verify their interest in serving in this capacity.

#### **UPCOMING DEADLINES AS OF 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER BOD MEETING:**

12/20 – Income and Expense reports are to be mailed to the Treasurer

12/31 – Inventory totals are to be submitted to Treasurer with quantity and dollar value

(Bands and Awards Departments)

#### **AFFILIATIONS/AWARDS**

**Management:** Bob Peers, current 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Awards Manager and President Elect, will relinquish Awards Manager responsibilities (an appointed position) January 1<sup>st</sup>. Per the by-laws, these responsibilities will be combined with Affiliations position.

**Vote:** Clarification provided by Bill Parlee, when Affiliates were established, they were not intended to have a vote. However, their Delegate, who was required to be an NFSS member DID have a vote. When the requirement to have Delegates maintain an NFSS Membership was dropped in 2002, the BOD never realized the change in voting rights they had caused. A motion in 1999 by the BOD to remove the vote of the affiliates failed. The voting practice has continued 8 yrs after a challenge to the practice was sustained by the BOD. There is no substantiation in the by laws allowing them a vote, but there is 8 yrs of voting by the Affiliates following a vote by the BOD stating they didn't want the practice to stop. Changing a policy with "significant history" in the middle of an election cycle is not the perfect answer either. The value clubs place on their vote may be dependent on the relationship they seek with NFSS – Advertising only vs Partnership wanting a voice in our leadership. If the practice is to continue, it should be addressed by the By Law Review Committee. See Motion #2007-29.

**Renewal Dates:** Current club affiliation "year" is Jan 1 – Jan 1. Most clubs have their Annual General Meetings and elections at end or beginning of year. Changing to 3/1 – 3/1, gives Officers time to conduct annual meeting, elect new officers, and conduct club business of re-affiliating with NFSS. See Motion #2007-30.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERSHIP LIST INFORMATION**

The BOD is responsible to maintain the confidentiality of the personal information of all members. Various BOD members need all or parts of this information to conduct day to day business of the organization. Motions were made regarding the release, distribution, and use of this information. For more detailed information, see the "Motions" section of these minutes.

#### **PP FORUM EFFECTIVENESS**

**Negative:** Recently seems to have contributed more "negative" than "positive" & not effectively solve problems which members could address by contact with Regional VP, or a specific Department. Contacts for BOD members are listed in Journal & on web site. Considerable time is spent by the BOD hashing over issues on this forum, taking time from meetings. If the PP Forum is closed, all policies, procedures, and contact points remain available to the membership. Total of 93 NFSS members are PP forum members – in December, 507 posts were made by 20 total persons – 7 of whom were on the BOD. This equates to 2% of the total membership – & is not a fair representation of the "entire" membership.

**Positive:** The PP forum serves as a useful tool in protecting the husbandry forum and provides a venue for communication of non-husbandry topics.

**Consensus:** Acceptable tone and topic can be expected. A trial period will be conducted to assure participants understand what constitutes non-husbandry conversation, combined with a more aggressive demand for civility. The BOD may act to close the PP forum if changes are not evident.

#### **INVITATION TO INCOMING BOD MEMBERS**

An invitation was extended to newly elected BOD members to the BOD forum to view 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter meeting. Although the discussions are not "secret", they are requested not to copy BOD discussions to others outside the forum & out of context. Their comments, concerns, or questions should be sent to the BOD members' individual e mail addresses as opposed to posting to the BOD forum.

#### **MOTIONS:**

MOTION	BY	2 <sup>nd</sup>	MOTION	RESULT
2007-26	T. Keegan	T. Weisemann	Privacy Policy (See Below	Pass
2007-27	R. Mehl	R. Mikel	Privacy Statement (See	Pass

2007-28	T. Keegan	Raspberry	Below) Data Base Distribution (See Below)	Fail
2007-29	L. Murphy	R. Mikel	Affiliate Votes (See Below)	Pass
2007-30	R. Peers	L. Murphy	NFSS Club Affiliate dates run from 3/1 – 3/1	Pass
2007-31	R. Mikel	P. Hansen	Appoint Gunnar Nitzkowski Region 5 VP Pro-Tem	Pass
2007-32	T. Keegan	Raspberry	By Law Amendment Vote (See below)	Pass
2007-33	D. White	P Hansen	Approve 2008 Proposed Budget	Pass
2007-34	R. Peers	R. Mehl	Approve minutes and Adjourn Meeting	Pass

2007-26: The following will become the policy of NFSS with respect to the behavior of elected and appointed officers using NFSS membership information. *The privacy of NFSS members being of utmost importance, the BOD will ensure the membership list data base is not used for any purpose other than the maintenance of NFSS membership privileges. Using this data for any purpose other than satisfying these privileges shall constitute action injurious to the society and be sufficient basis to initiate removal proceedings per the NFSS by-laws.*

2007-27: Membership information will not be sold or released to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party and will only be used for internal NFSS needs and to fulfill membership requests for mailings, points, bands, and other departmental needs. (This statement will be printed in the Journal, on membership applications, and on the web page in those areas which address membership purchases or renewals.)

2007-28: The Membership Director shall release the entire membership data base or any portion thereof, within 2 weeks of the request, to any officer requesting this information for official NFSS business unless such release is specifically prohibited by the BOD or NFSS by laws.

2007-29: Affiliates of NFSS, not being actual members as described in the by-laws, will not have a vote in the society's elections.

2007-32 The President will report the results of the recent by-law amendment balloting (pertaining to the publishing of officer's votes in the meeting minutes) to the membership by providing these results to the Journal Editor for printing. These results shall include the number of votes cast by members, not to include Affiliated Clubs, for and against the proposed by law amendment.

Meeting Adjourned by Sally Huntington, December 31, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Mikel  
NFSS Executive Secretary