

## SSIA Conference Call

**Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 5pm Pacific**

Attendance: Don Rinaldi, Blasé Knabl, Paul Angelos, Bob Berman, Harry Loewenberg, Mitch Lebovic, Rick Meyer, Sandra Verbruggen , Ira Freedman, Notes by: Gina Berman.

### **Old Business:**

Newsletter: Harry has going to all the Western U.S. Shops and members. Newsletter will have a blurb in Spanish that Bob will have his employees translate..

Approval of Financial Statement : year end statement emailed by Mitch. Everyone has looked over. . Don made motion to approve and Harry seconded. All approved.

Past minutes approval: Voting on accepting of the minutes from the last 2 meetings: Don made the motion Blasé seconded. All approved.

New board nominations: Harry Loewenberg does newsletter and is at the end of his term. He would rather give some new blood a chance but will serve another term is no one is found. Rick Meyer will call around to wholesalers and see if they are interested to be on board.

Repair members: Blase suggested Pat Harper (A Cobbler) who is interested. Repairers suggest the board members representing repairers.

Convention: Sandra suggested a Holland member to do a seminar. He has limited English. He does special staining on soles and will demonstrate how to do that. Rooms for hotel: the block is full. As long as rooms are available they have to honor rate until Mid June.

Sandra made a comment that the SSIA members are asking "what are the benefits of being a member?" Other than the newsletter there isn't any benefit that is apparent. Perhaps in the future the items like door prizes, breakfast, and lunch should be only free for members. Money's Worth and Best are giving away (3) product door prizes valued at \$1000.00

Don suggested that at the annual meeting we need to ask the repairers to form a committee to present to the board, proposals of what they want to have as a benefit to members. What would make them want to be a part of the SSIA and what they want the SSIA to do for them.

Rick made the comment of not taking away things like door prizes from everyone, but give something extra for members. (ie. Gift card, cash, T-shirt)

Shirts: Sandra is taking orders for shirts in white.

Membership: Winy Brazil wants to be member but hasn't submitted an application. Lyons and Volpy never submitted the fee to be a member.

**New business:**

Mitch suggested that everyone meet, in person, to come up with a strategic plan and stick to the plan in the future. The idea of meeting after the show on Sunday to discuss some of these ideas was brought up by Don. It was decided that would not be enough time but that some notes on the show can be made.

Paul moved to adjourn the meeting.