

Minutes of August 16, 2017 SSIA Board Meeting

Free Conference number is 712-432-6100 and enter code 15151347#

Attendance: Sandra VerBruggen, Jim McFarland, Phil Wadzinski, Pat McCabe, Eddie Gitlin, Jesse Pasternak, Shannon Embry, Laurie McPherson and Mitch Lebovic

Absent: John McLoughlin

Quorum: Yes

- 1) **Vote on Adoption of old minutes from July 21, July 22 and July 23 meetings** – Eddie motioned to accept the minutes and Laurie seconded. All approved.
- 2) **Old Business** – Queen Mary room situation - Sandra reported that we were short 69 room nights in our guarantee to the hotel. Mitch and Sandra will be on a conference call next week to resolve this issue. SSIA's liability could be as much as \$15,000. Going forward, Pat suggested that tax rates be included in our discussion when choosing a hotel so members have a better idea of actual room costs. Our room nights guarantee for Baltimore is 400, not 500 like we told the Queen Mary.
- 3) **Newsletter** – Mitch reported we were one ad short for Newsletter and copy should be submitted to printer by August 25th. Newsletter will be mailed September 11th.
- 4) **Plastic Bags** – Still have 6 more slots for advertising. Phil will call Don Rinaldi about accepting full shipment of next bag order.
- 5) **Under New Business** – The Board talked about keeping same exhibitor rates for Baltimore – will be discussed further at next meeting.
- 6) **Changing Conventions** – On the subject of changing conventions to every other year rather than annually the Board tabled the matter till September. Suppliers voted 14 to 7 in favor of conventions every other year. Jim thinks we should keep conventions annually, as long as they attract 150-200 shops. Shannon was opposed to the idea of holding the convention in the same city every year even if it was centrally located. Sandra said more study was needed before holding small regional shows in place of large annual conventions.
- 7) After discussing the need to recruit and retain new shoe repair shops, Pat suggested, a subcommittee be formed and report back to the full Board. Jim made a motion to form a 3 person subcommittee (Jesse, Pat and Shannon representing all 3 constituencies). Eddie seconded and all approved.

- 8)** A discussion on membership dues was tabled until September meeting.
- 9)** Phil also reminded the Board that we need to address the issue of who is a supplier and the rules relating to exhibiting at the conventions.
- 10)** After choosing September 20th for our next Board Conference call the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.