

## Minutes of March 11th, 2020 SSIA Board Meeting

Free Conference number is 712-432-6301, Code# - 196436

**Attendance:** Jim McFarland, Phil Wadzinski, , Jesse Pasternak, Mitch Lebovic, Eddie Gitlin, Todd Roberts, John McLoughlin, Mark Dorothy

**Absent:** Ben Meyer, Shannon Embry

**Quorum:** Yes

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
- 2) Minutes from February 2nd were approved unanimously.
- 3) **President's Report –**
  - a. Jim McFarland reached out to Allen Edmonds about supporting the shine contest. Allen Edmonds will provide shoes for the shine contest at the Chicago convention. They will also provide a judge.
  - b. Jim also reached out to the Chicago media to announce the contest and is hoping to generate coverage as well as find a third judge for the contest with some name recognition in the area.
  - c. The Two Ten Foundation contacted SSIA and wants to participate in the Chicago convention. Moved, seconded and carried to provide Two Ten with a complimentary exhibit table at the show.
  - d. The Pedorthic Footwear Association also contacted SSIA about participating in the Chicago convention. They are looking to develop a list that matches certified pedorthists with shoe repairers capable of creating build-ups to their specifications. Jim will find out more about exactly what PFA has in mind and will report back at the next meeting.
- 4) **Vice President Report –**
  - a. Phil Wadzinski reported that Tarrago International is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and should be recognized. Mitch Lebovic will prepare a certificate
- 5) **Treasurer Report -**
  - a. John McLoughlin reported that SSIA has \$104,407 in funds compared to just over \$103,000 at the end of February last year. He noted, though, that SSIA has prepaid the hotel for this year's convention, which actually puts the association significantly ahead of where it was last year.
- 6) **Old Business**
  - a. Shoe Shine Contest
    - i. Mitch Lebovic reported that five people have registered for the contest thus far.
  - b. 2021 Convention
    - i. Moved, seconded and carried to select Dallas as the location for SSIA's 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in 2021. Jim McFarland and Mitch Lebovic will visit hotels

in the Dallas area in April and make a recommendation to the board at its next meeting.

**7) New Business**

a. Event Cancellation Insurance

- i. Mitch Lebovic recommended that SSIA explore event cancellation insurance in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Though he doesn't expect COVID-19 to impact SSIA's 2020 convention, it serves as a reminder that SSIA is obligated to its convention hotel for more than \$50,000 in sleeping room revenue and, should something unforeseen happen to jeopardize attendance, the consequences could be significant for SSIA. John McLoughlin will explore options for the insurance and report back to the board.

b. Wholesale Membership Drive

- i. The board asked how many repairer memberships have been generated by the wholesaler membership drive initiated last fall. Mitch Lebovic will provide a report. We also discussed doing the t-shirts for the convention locally to support a local business as well as cut down on shipping cost.

c. Membership Renewals

- i. Mitch Lebovic reported that membership renewals are underway. The process was delayed this year due to the office move, but will be completed before the next board meeting. Retention reports will be provided to the board.

**8)** Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 8 p.m. EST.

**9)** Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm