

Minutes of March 17th, 2021 SSIA Board Meeting

Via Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Jim McFarland, Mitch Lebovic, Dan Frappier, Todd Roberts, Mark Dorothy, Phil Wadzinski, Eddie Gitlin, John McLoughlin

Absent: Ben Meyer, Jesse Pasternak

Quorum: Yes

- 1) Minutes from previous meetings were approved.
- 2) **President's Report** –
 - a. Jim McFarland reported no changes in the industry since the last board meeting. He updated the board on his new position with The Cobblers in Miami, FL and announced that they will be creating a shoe repair academy within the next year that he feels will be a benefit to the industry.
- 3) **Vice President Report** –
 - a. Phil Wadzinski reported that, after six weeks of negotiation, The Loews Chicago O'Hare agreed to postpone SSIA's 2021 convention to July 16-17, 2022. As an incentive for the hotel to agree to rescheduling, SSIA guaranteed \$10,000 in food & beverage revenue for the meeting. This will be used for a Silver Cup Awards reception. SSIA agreed to put down 10 percent of that amount as a deposit which is due by April 30.
- 4) **Treasurer Report** –
 - a. John McLoughlin said SSIA will have \$86,900 in its bank account after paying this month's bills. Though this is lower than last year, that is due to slow revenue that had started to come in last year. Revenue and expenses are both down this year, but SSIA is managing its costs effectively and John is comfortable the association is in good shape.
- 5) **Election of Directors**
 - a. The board discussed directors' terms expiring this year.
 - b. Supplier – Jesse Pasternak is completing his term and is eligible to serve another. John and Phil will determine whether he will do so or whether they need to find a replacement.
 - c. Wholesaler – Ed Gitlin's is completing his term and is eligible to serve another. Ed said he would be willing to do so.
 - d. Repairer – Jim McFarland is completing his term and is not eligible to serve another. Jim, Dan Frappier and Todd Roberts will look into finding a replacement.
 - e. Director terms will expire at the 2021 Annual meeting which will be held online in August at a date to be determined.
- 6) **Old Business-**

- a. Social Media – Vibram has launched a social media program to promote shoe repair. Initial results have been promising and should benefit the whole industry.

7) New Business-

- a. To determine how many shops are left following the COVID pandemic, SSIA will mail a Save-the-Date post card for the 2022 convention. The card will mail first class so undeliverable mail will be returned to SSIA. Mitch will get a printing and mailing quote for John and the board.
- b. Supplier seminars – Mitch will distribute a proposal for supplier seminars to the board so SSIA can resume providing educational content to its members. If the board agrees to the details, an announcement will be made to suppliers to launch the seminars.

8) Open Discussion-

9) Our next meeting will be April 21st, 8PM EDT and it will be on a zoom call.

10) Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.