

Meeting Minutes – October 17th, 2023

Present: Mark Dorothy, Dan Frappier, Ivan Komashinskiy, Molly Monahan, Pat Dommange, Jesse Pasternak, Eddie Gitlin, Sunny Yoo, Mitch Lebovic

Meeting Time: 5:00 PM PST

1. Approval of Minutes from September 2023:

- Mark motions to approve minutes.
- Dan seconds.
- All approved.

2. Motion to Increase Annual Dues:

- Mark proposes increasing annual dues from \$65-75 for repair membership, and \$250 to \$300 for Wholesale and Supplier membership.
- Everyone approves.
- Motion Passed for increased annual dues.

3. Jesse's Treasury Report:

- 2 transactions with CPA.
- 2022 bill overdue but now settled.
- Current bill discussed.
- Mitch did not see the invoice, possibly lost or not sent before John/Mike departing.

4. Dan's VP Report:

- Shoe Repair thriving and busy.
- Industry buzz with Stitchdown Boot Camp and Shoeshine Championship.

5. Hotels for SSIA 117th Convention:

- Mitch shares a spreadsheet with NJ & Philly locations.
- Only 1 out of 6 locations is considered affordable from initial lists.
- Mitch to arrange a visit to hotels in the first week of November.

6. Footwear Companies for 117th Convention:

- Discussion of potential companies like OHI / Apex and Thursday Boots.
- Consideration of bringing in companies that bring value to SSIA members and vice versa, thinking creatively.

7. Open Discussion:

- Sunny discusses a shoeshine competition in NYC and involvement of Kirby Alison, Shoe Snob (Justin), and Shoe Gazing Blog (Jasper).
- Sunny emailed Kirby about SSIA Shoeshine event.
- Bespoke Shoemakers' attendance at shoeshine event and Stitchdown event.
- Targeting them for the 117th Convention to attend/exhibit.
- Justin shares the experience at Stitchdown Boot Camp, highlighting the alignment of passion with SSIA's mission.
- SSIA's need to be involved with the Stitchdown community and future events.
- Justin to maintain contact with Ben and promote Stitchdown attendance at SSIA conventions.

- Board plans to meet with Ben and Sunny's contacts when ready to pitch the convention or other events.

8. Sponsorships:

- Discussion on repair shops sponsoring the convention.
- Various sponsorship opportunities discussed, including coffee & donuts, events within the convention, welcome packages, convention gift bags, and giveaways.

9. Leads:

- Dan shares two leads for supplier membership: a waterproofer manufacturer and a belt manufacturer.

10. Convention Planning:

- Scheduled for July 13-14.
- Consideration of having a comedian or DJ due to the absence of the Silver Cup.
- Ideas for the Shoeshine Competition discussed, including Slam Dunk style, mirror, and fastest shoeshine.
- Possibility of bringing back the World Cup with an artistic aspect and a Western Boot Competition.
- Seminars proposed on machine maintenance and rock climbing boots.

11. List of Pros for Repair Shops (and other members) to Join SSIA.

Next Meeting: November 14th, 2023

End of Meeting Minutes.