

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE, INC.  
Iditarod Headquarters  
June 25, 2005

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President John Handeland at 10:00 a.m.

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF 2004 ANNUAL MEETING

**J Michael Devitt/Mike Owens moved to adopt the minutes of the June 26, 2004 Annual Meeting.  
Motion passed.**

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Members present: Sue Allen, ~~Chris Aquilar, Tiffany Aquilar~~, Kay Arnold, Richard Burmeister, Martin Buser, Jack Campbell, Cheryl Church, Dayton, Daytona, J Michael Devitt, Paul Foutz, Rae Foutz, Deb Glenn, Brad Gore, Doug Grilliot, Wayne Groomer, Nancy Grota, Bob Hendershott, Connie Hendershott, Victor Hett, John Handeland, Neil Heisner, Ray Hollenbeck, Stan Hooley, Greg Hopkins, Peggy Jacks, GB Jones, Leelan Larsen, Marcheta Long, Judy Merritt, Cheryl Metiva, Marty Metiva, Dale Meyers, Maureen Morgan, Maryann Nagy, Stuart Nelson, Jr., Jack Niggemyer, ~~Mark Nordman~~, Mike Owens, Jim Palin, Gary Paulson, Maureen Pedigo, Mary Pignalberi, Bill Pinkham, Joanne Potts, June Price, ~~Jamie Remond, Robert Remond, Andrea Rogers~~, Eric O Rogers, Martha M Rogers, Dorothy Saunders, Rachael Scodris, Dan Seavey, Tyrell Seavey, Frank Sihler, Ramey Smyth; Perry Solmonson, Joan Steltenpohl, Chas St. George, Amy Strine, ~~Ed Sundeen~~, Jim Terry, Sally Terry, Carol Tvorak., Deby Trosper, Richard Wenrich, Sr, ~~Aletta Yarbrough, Addie Young, Troy Zachary~~

70 people present, 10 are non-members so there were 60 members present. Those with a strike through their name are not members.

#### Proxies present:

Sue Allen – 1; Kay Arnold – 1; Richard Burmeister – 23; Martin Buser – 9; ~~Susan Butcher – 1; Wayne Curtis – 1; John Barron – 1; Greg Bill – 1; Vern Halter – 3; John Handeland – 87; Greg Hopkins – 1; Stan Hooley – 20; Ed Iten – 1; GB Jones – 1; DeeDee Jonrowe – 10; Jeff King – 6;~~  
Lee Larsen – 7; ~~\*Max Lowe – 3; Sam Maxwell – 19; \*Denise Michaels – 3; Mark Moderow – 28; Maureen Morgan – 8; Cheryl Metiva – 1; Stuart Nelson, Jr. – 2; Mike Owens – 51; Don Patterson – 2; Jim Palin – 7; Will Peterson – 4; June Price – 13; Joanne Potts – 6; \*\*Joe Redington Sr. – 6; Eric Rogers – 3; Martha Rogers – 1; Dan Seavey – 91; Mitch Seavey – 3; Stan Smith – 4; Perry Solmonson – 3; Bud Smyth – 2; Ramey Smyth – 1; Rick Swenson – 215; Doug Swingley – 1; Deby Trosper – 8; Aliy Zirkle – 1; Blank – 95~~

There were a total of 752 proxies. There were a total of 345 valid proxies. There were 6 proxies given to non-members, 6 given to a deceased person, 300 given to members who were not present and 95 were blank for a total of 407 invalid proxies. Those with a strike through were not present. Those with an \* are not members.

Two hundred seventy-seven members are needed for a quorum. With 60 present in person and 345 present by proxy, that makes 405 present either by proxy or in person. A quorum was present.

#### SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

President John Handeland noted that the schedule for the day would be:  
Annual Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

Volunteer Picnic – 12:00 p.m.  
Board of Directors Meeting -- 1:00 p.m.  
Begin Sign ups for 2006 – 2:00 p.m.  
Drawing for free entry fees – 5:00 p.m.

He also stated that during the afternoon the second winner of the Leonhard Seppala Heritage Grant would be announced.

## INTRODUCTIONS

The president asked the board members to introduce themselves and then went around the room so everyone present could introduce himself or herself. The staff was also introduced.

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President Handeland noted that the 2005 race was a complicated race with weather conditions being what they were. Following the viewing of video clips of the 2005 race, Handeland gave a brief review of the Race.

He explained that the gross revenues for the year to date have been 2.5 million, \$7,000 more than planned for. The expenses were \$140,000 more than expected, the majority of which come from a one-time cost for race communications.

He noted that we are expecting a \$950,000 growth in the coming fiscal year, most coming from a pay for view website. He said we expect to grow the reserve base by \$10,000 and the cash and accounts receivable by \$50,000.

He commented about the new website this year and congratulated those involved for a job well done.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Handeland noted that the Board of Directors holds a number of meetings during the year but today is for the members and invited comments from the members.

Ed Sundeen commented that Jack Niggemyer did a wonderful job and without him the race wouldn't happen.

Maureen Morgan asked for an explanation of the pay for view website. Stan Hooley explained that the website is now the primary way people have of following the race. He said there were 2 to 2 1/2 million viewers this year. GCI and ITC have been studying this idea for several years. He said it's a big step for the financial future of this race. He explained that there are three components of the pay for view website and noted that what is already put out there will remain and not be part of the pay for view:

He explained that the unit the mushers will carry in their sleds weights about 3 pounds. He said the annual expense of this is expected to be about \$650,000. We would share the revenue with the competitors. He said viewers would get 21 days of "a real live race" for between \$10 and \$20.

He explained that one could sign up for the pay for view on line.

J Michael Devitt commented that he was impressed with the KNOM interviews in Nome and suggested that people would enjoy hearing them on the pay for view.

Handeland noted that in Nome the Board of Directors had presented Tom Busch with an honorary lifetime membership recognizing his contributions while at KNOM for 20 year.

Joan Steltenphol asked about having the end of the race on the pay for view. She said they get lots of questions on that. Hooley noted that that could be done.

Kay Arnold asked if this will be usable by fans that still have dial up and Hooley said it would.

Arnold also asked about the changes in the rules getting on the website. Potts noted that the 2005 rules are on the website now.

Rae Foutz asked if the pay for view information would be available retroactively and Hooley noted that it would be archived.

Cheryl Metiva noted that there would possibly be grants available to help with this and asked if that had been looked into.

Sally Smith noted that the teachers she has talked to are very excited about this.

Devitt asked jokingly if the coverage would be subtitled in Norwegian and Hooley noted seriously that we need to recognize and better capitalize on the international interest in this race.

Morgan asked if this would be optional for the mushers. Hooley noted that it wouldn't be marketable if it were optional and said he hopes the IOFC enthusiastically endorses it.

Perry Solmonson commented that he was surprised when he got to Iditarod that there was no e-mail available as had been in past years. Hooley noted that GCI had done that before. This year GCI cut a check to Iditarod and Iditarod made the decision as to how to spend it. He explained that the communications had been provided by GCI in the past and not it is costing more than the sponsorship. He said he is still negotiating with GCI on the cost of communication services. He noted that we could not afford to provide the services in Iditarod that had been provided in the past.

Kay Arnold commented that the problem was that no one knew that. What was and wasn't going to be available was never publicized.

Jim Terry asked if the television stations would have access to this coverage and Hooley noted that as we put a team on the trail we think there will be other financial benefits to Iditarod.

Deb Glenn said she'd be willing to look at grants through the Department of Education. Hooley said one difficulty is that we don't have data on the number of contacts that were made by schools on the website.

Kay Arnold asked about trying to make the rules published earlier. Handeland noted that it was late this year when the rules committee was formed. He noted that the actions of the rules committee come before the Board of Directors and so what has happened is available by looking at the board minutes on the website.

Marty Metiva asked if there are any precautions to prevent snow machines from tearing up the trail. Handeland noted that this is an issue. He said various groups are discussing how to minimize the conflict.

Maureen Morgan noted that last year the trail was torn up by paddle track machines. Mark Nordman noted that the worst thing to happen to the trail is the use of paddle tracks. Kay Arnold suggested that part of it is education and getting out information.

Cheryl Metiva said she had great admiration for people who serve on the Board of Directors. She suggested that either the nominating committee should have to nominate two people per seat or a longer time should be given to petitioners who want to run for the board. Hooley recommended that anyone wanting to run for the Board should let him know and he will forward the information on to the nominating committee.

Handeland noted that the calendar of events on the website gives the milestone dates for various election activities.

Mary Pignalberi complimented the new Idita-Rider website.

#### ELECTION RESULTS

President Handeland introduced Sally Smith, chairperson of the election committee.

Smith thanked all those who had gotten up so early to count ballots and thanked the Senior Center for allowing us to use their facility, stating that it was an excellent place to do this.

Smith announced that 950 ballots were submitted, 45 were invalid (because of postmark or not being able to determine if it was from a member). 905 ballots were actually counted.

Those elected to the board were as follows:

Seat O – Mike Owens

Seat P – Richard Burmeister

Seat V – Dan Seavey

John thanked Smith and her committee and said they had done a fine job as usual.

Paul Foutz complimented Mary Pignalberi on the things Fur Rondy has done with Iditarod and encouraged the two groups to work together.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Dan Seavey/Mike Owens moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

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