

**Biennial Meeting of the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters  
June 23-24, 2008**

Pursuant to the Bylaws of the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters and in conjunction with the meeting of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the biennial meeting of the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters was held in the Fairfield Room of the Fairmont San Jose Hotel at 170 Market St. in San Jose, California 95113, at 9:00 a.m. PDT. The meeting was duly called by written notice provided to each member more than 60 days before the meeting and published in the NAPS Newsletter distributed to the members.

**Present:** Gene Foley, Rush Hart, Wray Johannning, Eliot Kerlin, Ron Kuebler, Joe Larrance, Corb Sarchet, Jack Schrimsher, and Donald York. NAPS members Anna Hart, Diana Johannning, and Fran Kerlin were also present and working in the NAPS booth in the Convention Center Exhibition Hall during those portions of the meeting when the Exhibit Hall was open to commissioners and visitors to the General Assembly.

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. PDT by the President Wray Johannning and opened with prayer by Gene Foley. The president declared a quorum to be present. A motion was made by Jack Schrimsher and was seconded that all members present at the meeting be given voice and vote. The motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Jack Schrimsher distributed to those present printed copies of five documents:

1. Minutes of the meeting of the national officers of NAPS on June 19, 2006, in Birmingham, Alabama.
2. Minutes of the meeting of the board of directors, officers, and members of NAPS on June 20, 2006, in Birmingham, Alabama.
3. Summary of actions of the executive committee and board of directors of NAPS from September 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008
4. Report of the election of officers and regional directors and the approval by election of revisions to the Bylaws in September, 2006
5. Report of the election of officers and regional directors and approval by election of revisions to the Bylaws in May, 2008, that would become effective July 15, 2008

Those five documents together constituted the minutes of the actions of the organization, its officers and directors for the time period since the last biennial meeting June 19-20, 2006, in Birmingham, Alabama in conjunction with the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Those minutes were approved.

Secretary Schrimsher also reported that the current membership total in 335. That number includes 69 Life Members and 85 members who have not yet paid dues for 2008. That membership report was received and filed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Rush Hart stated that the financial books and records were present at the meeting and were available for inspection. He presented and distributed copies of:

1. 2007 Financial Statement
2. Final accounting of funding for Gene Foley's trip to the World Jamboree
3. Proposed budget for 2008
4. Financial reports for the first 5 months of 2008

Those four reports were received and filed. Treasurer Hart also noted that he recently mailed notices to members whose dues were in arrears at a cost of nearly \$100.

Responses were received from more than a dozen of those members which more than covered the expense of the mailing.

**President's Report:** President Wray Johanning stated that this would be his last meeting as President. He summarized the recently approved covenant agreement between NAPS and Presbyterian Men. He also reported that the response to the request for support for Gene Foley's 2007 trip to England representing NAPS at the World Jamboree was overwhelming. President Johanning thanked the officers and board members for keeping NAPS operating during the past two years and thanked Eliot Kerlin for making the arrangements for this biennial meeting in San Jose. He also thanked Donald York, Director of the Relationships Division of the Boy Scouts of America for attending the meeting and for his past and continuing support of NAPS.

**Old Business:** Corb Sarchet reminded those present to consider ways to schedule the next NAPS biennial meeting in 2010 because of conflicts between the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scouting National Jamboree and the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly both being held in the summer that year and the fact that most officers, board members and members of the organization will likely not be able to attend both. The General Assembly will be held July 3-10, 2010, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Jamboree will be July 26 – August 4 in Virginia.

**New Business:** The matter was raised of the current requirement that members also be members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or any other Presbyterian body in correspondence with PC (USA). The history and reasons for that limitation were discussed. It was recognized that a substantial number of potential NAPS member Scouts and Scouters are being missed because they are members of Presbyterian bodies not currently in correspondence with PC (USA). The value of the covenant relationship was discussed as well as the current conflicts with the Presbyterian Church in America and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. It was noted that the current covenant of NAPS with the PC (USA) had expired in 2007, and because of pending reorganizations and reductions in employment levels by the PC (USA) and BSA, it was unknown when or by whom that covenant might be renewed.

It was agreed that the questions involved were:

1. Should NAPS admit to full membership those who are members of Presbyterian bodies other than PC (USA) or in correspondence with PC (USA)?

2. Should NAPS have a covenant relationship only with PC (USA)?
3. If NAPS is to covenant with others, what form should it take?

These questions were considered in the context of the likely future decentralization of PC (USA) governance. It was also argued that PC (USA) should not alone dictate how NAPS does business.

Corb Sarchet moved, and it was seconded, that language be developed to remove the restriction from the Bylaws. The motion carried and the president directed Jack Schrimsher and Gene Foley to develop such language and present it later in the meeting for approval.

Mr. Adrian McMillan of PC (USA) joined the meeting briefly and a short 30 minute break was called.

Upon reconvening, a brief discussion was held concerning the possibility of entering into some working relationship with the Girl Scouts. It was agreed that the Girl Scouts have traditionally not been open to having any formal relationship with NAPS, and it is unlikely they will modify that position in the near future, but NAPS will remain open to that possibility.

The NAPS presence at the 2010 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Jamboree was discussed. It was agreed that NAPS should participate in the Chaplains Corps and should sponsor an exhibit booth. It was further agreed that the exhibit booth should be more boy oriented as opposed to adult oriented. Participation by NAPS at past jamborees was reviewed. It was noted that the BSA usually allows four persons to be housed on site. Others of course can stay off site and enter daily as visitors. Gene Foley, Joe Larrance, and Corb Sarchet were appointed to serve on a committee to plan NAPS participation for the 2010 Jamboree. They were specifically charged to develop a proposed project for the exhibit booth, a proposed budget, and a proposed schedule for staffing.

Wray Johanning raised the question of a possible NAPS sponsored conference at Philmont. It was agreed that planning such a conference should be postponed for at least one additional year.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Additional consideration was given to the most appropriate and desirable times to schedule a Philmont conference, and considerable time was spent discussing subjects to be covered at such a conference. It was agreed that Joe Larrance and Wray Johanning would talk with Paul Deason to further discuss how to reach the appropriate target audience for a conference, and Don York would check to see what future dates might be available in 2009.

Consideration was also given to possible participation at future Youth Tri-ennium Conferences in Purdue, Indiana, through sponsorship of a booth utilizing a Venturing crew for staffing.

Building NAPS membership was extensively discussed as well as ways to further involve current members in NAPS activities. The possibility of accepting payments on-line through the NAPS website for membership dues, patches, pins, or other donations was discussed. Corb Sarchet agreed to discuss with the webmaster the feasibility of adding such a feature to the website and to report his findings and recommendations to the board.

Promoting chaplaincy was also discussed.

Treasurer Rush Hart requested approval to list President Wray Johanning as a Life Member as provided in the Bylaws. That request was approved. Treasurer Hart also moved, and it was seconded, that five officers be approved as eligible to sign checks for disbursement of funds on behalf of NAPS. Those five would include Rush Hart, Wray Johanning, Eliot Kerlin, Joseph A. "Joe" Larrance, and Jack Schrimsher. To achieve this, George Huff's name would be removed and replaced by Joseph A. "Joe" Larrance. The motion was approved.

Treasurer Hart also reported that the State of Texas, where NAPS is incorporated, does not require updating of corporate information so long as the corporation is a private, non-profit one and does not change its operational purpose. He also reported that the so-called "postcard" report to the Internal Revenue Service, that can be filed via the internet, has a \$35,000 per year threshold.

Corb Sarchet distributed printed copies in loose-leaf binders of a NAPS Handbook for Officers and Directors dated June, 2008.

The meeting was recessed at 3:55 p.m., to reconvene at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday morning June 24, 2008, in the same location.

President Johanning called the meeting back to order with prayer at 9:00 a.m., June 24, 2008. Derrick Hoey from the PC (USA) was briefly present.

Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the past two years Corb Sarchet stated that the actions of the Nominating Committee were covered in the reports of the elections of 2006 and 2008 that were presented as part of the Secretary's report presented earlier.

Jack Schrimsher presented printed copies of proposed revisions to the Bylaws as directed by motion the previous day to eliminate the discussed membership restriction. He moved, and it was seconded, that the board of directors recommends to the membership that the Bylaws be amended by:

1. Amending ARTICLE IV, entitled "Membership", by removing and striking from Section 1 (B) therein the words, ". . .members of the Program Agencies of any

Presbyterian body described in Article VI, Section 2, and to . . .”, so that said Section 1 (B) would then read, “Associate membership shall be open to any other persons not meeting the requirements for regular membership but who are interested in furthering the goals of this association.”

2. Amending ARTICLE VI, entitled “Governing Body”, by removing and striking from Section 2 therein the words, “. . . [i.e. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or any other Presbyterian body in correspondence with PC (USA) recognizing NAPS]. . .” and replacing them with the words, “recognizing NAPS”; and further on in that same sentence removing and striking therefrom the words, “. . . member of its. . .” and “. . . Division (or equivalent). . .” and replacing them with the words, “person knowledgeable in”, so that said Section 2 would then read, “Presbyterian bodies recognizing NAPS shall be entitled to place a person knowledgeable in youth ministries on the National Board of Directors with voice and vote.” (Note that youth ministries would no longer be capitalized.)

The motion was approved unanimously and will be presented to the membership for its approval.

Discussion continued regarding ways to increase NAPS membership.

The meeting was recessed at 11:00 a.m. and moved to the nearby Westminster Presbyterian Church at 1100 Shasta Avenue in San Jose, California 95126, where it reconvened for the NAPS Biennial Recognition Luncheon at noon.

The luncheon was opened and closed by Troop 116, sponsored by the Rotary Club of San Jose. After lunch was served, President Wray Johanning introduced the guest speaker, John Washburn, Southern Region President of Venturing, and an Elder member of Druid Hills Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

New officers, Joseph A. “Joe” Larrance, President, and Ronald C. “Ron” Kuebler, Regional Director for South Atlantic Region, were introduced and sworn in by the president. It was noted that the Bylaws had been revised by the election of May 15, 2008, to provide for a Vice President for Membership Development. That change will become effective July 15, 2008, at which time President Larrance may appoint a qualified person to fill that position until it can be filled by election of the membership prior to the 2010 biennial meeting.

Charter member Dale Dykstra and his wife Cheryl of Mendota, Illinois were introduced, and special awards were presented to members Fran Kerlin, Diana Johanning and Wray Johanning.

The luncheon and biennial meeting were adjourned and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack H. Schrimsher