

MINUTES

American Power Boat Association - Vintage & Historic Division Annual Meeting via Zoom

February 3, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 PM EST by Chairman Jeff "Nemo" Buckley. Board members in attendance were Jim Olson, Vice-Chairman; Dick Delsener, East Coast Representative; Shaun Kelson, West Coast Representative; Steve Compton, Inboard Representative; Rich Luhrs, Outboard Representative; Dan Joseph, Regions Representative; Jackie Meyer, Officiating Representative; John Woodward, Communications/Marketing; Matt Yarno, APBA Board Liaison; Special Projects representatives Bob "Pappy" Moore, Rich Evans, Jim Berry, and Rick Sandstrom. Also in attendance were Region Reps: Region 1, Donnie McLean; Region 3, Matt Morsheimer; Region 4, Rayner Blair; Region 5, Jed Wolcott; Region 6, Mark Cravens; Region 7, Fred Eichmiller; Region 10, Mike Currie. Also attending were APBA President Chris Fairchild and APBA Director of Operations Becky Nichols. Approximately 85 people total were in the Zoom audience.

Prior to the call to order, APBA Board Liaison Matt Yarno presented some pointers on participating in a Zoom meeting.

Chairman Nemo noted that this was an informative meeting and not an official Board meeting. He held a moment of silence for those we've lost in the last year.

APBA President Chris Fairchild welcomed all and said that he is always available for questions.

Roll call was taken by Secretary Debbie Joseph. A quorum of voting Board members was present.

Chairman Buckley welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the voting members of the Board.

Vice-Chairman Jim Olson introduced the Region Representatives.

Chairman Buckley introduced the Chairman's Special Projects Committee members. He noted that others may be requested or assigned as required throughout the year. He led a round of applause for immediate past Chairman John Krebs.

Chairman Buckley detailed his Rudders Steering Group who will be called upon to offer guidance throughout the year.

Chairman Buckley detailed the "State of Vintage & Historic". We are being looked at with a keen eye by APBA. Nothing has been done wrong in the past, we are just trying to make things better. Covid has caused us to become more pro-active and innovative. Communication will be most important going forward. Our numbers are falling, number of events has decreased, and our promo fund is not as strong as it has been. As of today, we are 20% of the APBA with 153 members (#4 in APBA Category membership), down from a high of 286 in

2011. There is currently approximately \$6,200 in the V&H promotional fund (no promotional money was paid in 2020). Discounted APBA membership rates will be available until March 1. Chairman Buckley identified three fundamentals for 2021: communication, safety, and growth and longevity. He wants V&H to be more enjoyable, safer, more sustainable, and to begin better preservation efforts.

Outboard Representative Rich Luhrs congratulated everyone for participation and enthusiasm. He said that the second half of 2021 looks bright despite the fact that we've already lost one event, the Florida event due to the lack of availability of emergency services. He reminded event organizers to get their dates established with APBA as soon as possible as dates may need to change through the year due to Covid concerns. We need to try to recruit members as they exit the racing divisions of APBA and encourage membership in V&H.

Regions Representative Dan Joseph said that the Region Reps are the grass roots of V&H. Sanction requests should be taken to the Region Rep in their area who will take it to the V&H Board. We need to have a format for how sanctions are awarded and that is being established. We need to be aware that organizers may be at risk if there were to be a Covid outbreak at their event; this is being looked at by the insurance company.

Communication and Marketing Representative John Woodward said that we reach 2,000 – 2,500 members in Propeller. Exposure is our biggest challenge now and social media will be utilized this year more than ever. If someone has a story of a vintage boat, etc. that would be of interest, John asks that they contact him. He also wants to organize want ads for boats that are for sale.

Chairman Buckley described that rules and regulations will be looked at closely and things that are redundant or not needed will be eliminated. If new rules are needed, they will be implemented. New rules are often driven by insurance.

The Board approved in 2020 that hulls 25 years or older would be accepted into V&H, but we have to consider boats with canopies or reinforced cockpits, for which rules have not been established. This is being worked on currently and there is much work to do. He is hopeful that this will be available quickly.

Chairman Buckley opened the floor for questions and discussion from the membership.

Steve Compton described comments he had heard that certain classes of boats weren't permitted to participate at some events. Some race sites simply don't have the capability to accept all classes of boats (some sites cannot accept trailer launched boats or lack space for larger boats, for example).

Jan Shaw is currently digitizing all past APBA rule books and they will be available on the APBA website.

What is the official communication tool for vintage? Propeller, Facebook and other social media, the Vintage Hydroplanes website, and the APBA website will all be used.

Will a clear and concise job description be developed for region reps? This is currently underway and will be available as soon as possible. Dan Joseph asked that any region reps

have any thoughts on duties please email him. He also asked for dates for events to be submitted to him.

What time frame will the cell (enclosed cockpit) information be available? This is upfront on the radar of the committee and is being worked on currently by the Board.

Donnie McLean said that the Wolfeboro event will be Sept. 17-18.

Rich Luhrs said that we should be putting out the same message on all modes of communication (social media, websites, etc). He suggested that people send official announcements to Holly Jones at APBA so the information can be the same across all platforms.

Becky Nichols said that getting sanctions in soon is very important and it is risk free in case an event might need to be canceled. They are working on updating the category pages. She detailed that the APBA building is for sale but has not sold yet; the building is very large for the number of people working there (4) and it is not in a very safe neighborhood. A couple of offers have been made to date but no offer has been accepted. Some trophies and memorabilia will be kept wherever headquarters goes, but some will be distributed to the museum in Clayton and the museum in Seattle, etc.

Rayner Blair and Jim Berry are meeting with local officials next week about a possible V&H event to include vintage inboards on October 1-2 in southern Maryland.

Jim Olson thanked Chairman Buckley for the work he has done in establishing the V&H Board. He urged the general membership to use these officials for questions or concerns. He and Jan Shaw will be working on shirts and hats for Board members and region reps so that they are easily identifiable at events.

Board members will be contacted in the next couple of days to establish the date of the next meeting.

In closing, Chairman Buckley remarked that he felt strongly that the membership should know who is on the board and working with love and passion on their behalf. He feels V&H has the potential to become the Golden Child of APBA and that's what the Board is working toward. The adage "it takes a village" is important in V&H; he implored members to reach out to their region rep with questions and concerns. He asks each Board member to assign a "wingman" so there is someone who can learn from you as a mentor. Everyone can bring someone to this table to make this a better and safer organization. He quoted Mark Weber: "It's a hobby, it has to be fun!"

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 EST on motion of Jim Olson, seconded by Rich Luhrs. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Joseph
Secretary
Vintage & Historic Division, American Power Boat Association