

**Minutes from the ARNISSA Reunion Business Meeting
San Diego, CA
April 9, 2005**

The 2005 Business Meeting was called to order at 1510.

Administrative Remarks

1. ARNISSA Coins: Coins were made available for a donation of \$10.00 for one and \$25.00 for three, with the proceeds going to the National Treasury.
2. Credential cases: Cases for retired credentials were for sale at \$33.00 each.
3. Conceal carry comments: It was noted that the most current information on the recently passed conceal carry law was posted on the ARNISSA web site. This issue is more complicated than just passing a law as demonstrated by the confusion about whom it applies to and how the procedures are to be handled. The Department of Defense is supposed to provide guidance for the Military Criminal Investigative Organizations. Additional information will be provided when received.
4. Use of the web site: It is our desire that the ARNISSA web site be the first place to go for information by the Membership. Efforts will be made to keep it current and easy to negotiate.
5. Efforts to contact recent retirees: It has become too difficult to contact each new retiree by letter so email is being used. It is hoped that we will be able to draw on others of our Membership to help with this task.
6. Forgoing dues for elderly members over a certain age. It was decided to examine how we should deal with members of advanced age as it becomes difficult for them to deal with membership related matters. Other agencies allow their members past a certain age to retain membership without paying dues. This matter will be explored and reported back to the Membership.
7. Why so much information is being put out on the net: In order to be an informed group, every effort is being made to keep matters before the Membership and email is the method of choice. We need to respect the email process and not abuse it.
8. During the meeting Members were asked to provide personal input for the upcoming Newsletter. Additionally, a sign-in sheet was passed around and will become a part of these minutes.

Old Business

1. Financial Report: National Treasurer Gary Witte provided the Financial Report (attached). It was moved and seconded that the financial report be accepted. After discussion the motion carried.
2. Membership package: There was discussion about setting up a membership package that would be provided to new members. The package could consist of items such as a membership card, a lapel pin, an ARNISSA coin and perhaps a copy of the most recent Newsletter. It was decided this should be explored in more depth.
3. How the Association is handling condolence flowers/donations: In order to be consistent in the way we provide flowers/donations as condolence, the following are the guidelines we will adhere to: Condolence flowers/donations will be sent to the family (or designated charity) upon the death of the ARNISSA member; the death of the spouse of an ARNISSA member; and upon the death of an active duty Special Agent.

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4. Should we consider allowing advertising in our Newsletter? After some discussion it was decided this matter required further exploration.
5. Is an ARNISSA Directory necessary? In that approximately 18% of our Membership is without email connectivity, it was decided to consider a Directory which would be broken down alphabetically, by state and would include places of employment.
6. Why membership cards were recently sent out. There was a desire from the Membership to have membership cards. National Treasurer Witte undertook the effort of sending membership cards to every member. It was decided to continue this.

New Business

1. There was discussion about the 1995 Reunion at Las Vegas and comment was made about the fact there was some concern that perhaps the ARNISSA By-Laws, passed at that Reunion, were not appropriately presented to the Membership. After considerable discussion on this matter, which included comments from approximately fifteen members who were present at the Las Vegas Reunion. The consensus of the Business Meeting was that the amending of the By-Laws at Las Vegas was, in fact, handled appropriately and no motion was entertained to pursue the matter further.
2. There was discussion about changing the name of the Association. It was pointed out that the initial email from Ron Bright, which initiated the discussion this past summer, was actually a suggestion to increase membership by making the Association more acceptable to new retirees. After discussion, which included the costs and effort associated with a name change, and the fact the Association would have to go before the IRS for tax exempt status again, no motion was entertained to pursue the matter further.
3. The election of National Officers resulted in a full slate as prescribed by the By-Laws. The positions elected for two years are: President, Neill Robins; Vice President East, Vic McPherson; Vice President West, Mike Pascoe; Treasurer, Gary Witte; and Secretary, Harry Stovall.
4. It was moved and seconded that membership dues be increased to \$35.00 per year with \$5.00 returned to the Chapter of the individual who paid the dues. After considerable discussion this motion carried. Inherent in this decision is the fact that the dues of those individuals not associated with a Chapter, will remain with National. National Treasurer Witte advised this was something he could handle.
5. Discussion of the e-mail group and the web site. There was considerable discussion about those individuals within the e-mail system (perhaps about 100) who do not pay dues. It was decided, however, that there are advantages to allow them to remain. It was decided to limit the 'members only' section of the web site to dues paying members. This action falls to the President to arrange a change in the password.
6. The remaining discussion items concerning a scholarship program, the design of a membership card and an ARNISSA badge, whether an archivist was needed, and the format/frequency of the Newsletter were discussed. It was determined an archivist was probably not necessary now that we have a full slate of National Officers. With respect to the Newsletter it was agreed that the current format was worth keeping and a decision about frequency would be made depending on what was available to be published. It was stressed the importance of input from the Membership in order to increase the value of

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the Newsletter. Further inquiries will be made regarding possibly sponsoring a scholarship and the design of a ARNISSA lapel pin and badge.

7. It was decided the next ARNISSA Reunion would be held in 2007 at a place and time to be determined by a committee and reported to the Membership no later than Christmas 2005. It was suggested that the committee seriously consider the use of a company to undertake the reunion planning.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 1730.