

Society of Midwest Contesters
Board of Directors meeting
12 February 2025 via Zoom conference call
Rev. 1.01 15 February 2025

Attending: Rick Dickens (KY0Q), Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT), Lyle Ten Pas (WE9R), Mike Ricketts (W9MR), Jim Walter (WT9U), Mike Metroka (WB8BZK), Dave Pritchard (W9QL), Mark Caldwell (N9TCA), Ed Picha (N9EP), Brian McIntosh (K9TI), Kermit Carlson (W9XA)

The meeting was called to order at 18:37 by Mike Ricketts

Item 1: Acknowledgment of outgoing and incoming board members

K9TI was welcomed to the Board for a 3 year term.

W9XT was thanked for his years of service on the Board

Item 2: Financial review

Mark Caldwell provided a financial update. Summary:

\$7099.22 -Unrestricted general funds

\$5780.00-Deferred revenue

\$12879.22-total in Chase and PayPal accounts

-\$1204.39 income/expense for 2024 calendar year

It was noted that the club incurred several exceptional costs in 2024 including the SMC medal program startup costs and WRTC expenses.

It was also noted that the dues increase to \$15/year was necessary and effective and was received by the membership without complaints.

The board developed the following budget for 2025:

Dues and Donation revenue:	\$4500 (\$4200 from dues-paying members + ~\$300 in donations)
SMCFest:	(as close to break even as possible)
Supersuite Sponsorship:	-\$450
Plaques:	-\$2800
PayPal fees:	-\$300

Liability insurance:	-\$200
SMC LAA:	-\$200
SMC Medals	-\$200 (medals engraving)
Election service	-\$40
WA7BNM donation	-\$100
Web hosting:	-\$75
	\$4500 (income)
	-\$4365 (expense sum)
	\$135 (P&L)

Mike Metroka offered a motion to approve the 2025 budget. Motion was seconded by Lyle Ten Pas and approved unanimously.

3. SMC Fest 2025

As many members expressed the desire for a downstate location, SMC Fest 2025 will be at the Marriott in Bloomington IL. The date is 11 October.

Room rate will be \$159/night

After discussion it was agreed to set the registration fee at \$75 to cover the \$68 per person negotiated Marriott fee plus the distributed cost of the \$415 AV fee.

4. Awards Committee

Steve Dubberstein, Gary Sutcliffe and Tim Gennett currently serve as an ad hoc awards committee. There was discussion about formalizing this committee with 3-5 members appointed by the President. At least one member should be a BoD member with the intention the the BoD member would report back to the board on committee activity at board meetings.

Jim Walter offered a motion to form the Awards Committee to be assigned by the president. Kermit Carlson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Gary Sutcliffe present a report from the awards committee. A brief summary:

Discussion regrading changing number of QSOs required for VHF and out of state QSO parties

CQ vhf split into analog and digital weekends

Discussion regarding requests to add additional contests and the possibility of users adding a wild card contest

Discussion regarding specifying a focused contest that would ramp up club participation similar to the ANTS effort in Sweepstakes several years ago

There was discussion regarding finding someone to help Tim Gennett with program administration.

Gary Sutcliffe was advised to return to award committee that board does not support the wild card at this time

Regarding the medals program, there was discussion regarding how medals should be paid for.

Kermit Carlson offered a motion that the club will pay for medals for SMC Fest attendees. Medal winners who do not attend SMC Fest will pay \$10 for the medal and \$5 for shipping. Non-attendees will have the option to have an SMC Fest attendee pick up their medal but non-attendees will be responsible for the cost of the medal. The motion was seconded by Dave Pritchard and was approved unanimously.

5. K9ZO Memorial

The board received a request from Ward N0AX that SMC should consider sponsoring a memorial plaque for Ralph K9ZO

Mike Ricketts took the following action items:

1. reach out to Craig K9CT to determine Ralph's favorite contest
2. Determine if we already sponsor the corresponding plaque.
3. Work with ARRL to determine if they would agree to put Ralph's name and call on that plaque

6. Other Business

Old Business:

New Business

Lyle Ten Pas discussed the lack of "cheerleading" or promoting encouragement for club members to participate in major contests. It was noted that some members strongly objected to the practice.

Rick Dickens suggested that SMC Fest should be open to other members. There was consensus that SMC Fest participation by non members should be encouraged.

Mike Ricketts stated that he will not run for second term as President.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was offered by Jim Walter. The motion was seconded by Kermit Carlson and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 20:04.

submitted by Ed Picha 15 February 2025