

## 56th National Meeting of EDGE&TA, June 11, 2016

Branch 52-Wasilla, Alaska

Mike Pollock from Branch 52 welcomed the EDGETA Board, members, Alaskans and non-Alaskans. He then introduced the National President, George Christmas. Clyde Brummett led the opening prayer followed by the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. George thanked Branch 52 for hosting the show this year. He then introduced the members of the Board of EDGETA as follows:

South Central Director, Clyde Brummett, Sr.  
Southwest Director, Don Young  
Northwest Director, Dick Tombrink  
Director-at-large, Buster Brown  
National Show Coordinator and Northeast Advisor, Morrie Robinson

George then announced the names of those Board Members not in attendance as follows: Northeast Regional Director, Wayne Timchuk; North Central Regional Director, Dorene Yearian; and Secretary/Treasurer, Carrie Jo Parmley.

Roll Call of the branches indicated there were 13 branches represented.

George then announced that currently we have 159 branches, we had 4 new branches added last year, and currently for the 2016 year, we have 7,619 members. We ended last year with a membership of 9,819 members. The last Branch Number added is 248. We had 4 branches drop out last year.

Old Business:

George announced that there were ballots mailed out for By-Laws Changes. We have had 68 ballots returned, with 66 voting "Yes" for the first By-Laws Change which lowers the minimum required membership from 20 to 10 for branches to renew. Therefore the change will be made.

The second proposal had 63 votes "Yes" and five votes of "No" which was the increase in what the Secretary receives. As the membership has declined, the amount of work required of the secretary as not decreased. In the past, the secretary received 20% of the dues portion of membership to EDGETA, which is \$4.00 per person. The reasoning for the amendment was to set a minimum of what the secretary receives for the work. George asked for questions. There were none. The change will be made to the By-Laws.

New Business:

## **INSURANCE ISSUES:**

George asked Dick Tombrink to lead the discussion on insurance. He announced that we have had no accidents. He also thanked all for following the safety guidelines. He explained the new requirement is that the insurance company requires branches to document non EDGETA activities prior to the activity taking place for branch members to have coverage. The reason is that late July there was an accident involving a man driving down the road on his tractor. It turned out that the man was probably not an EDGETA member. There was no claim filed. Now the activity should be documented in the branch minutes, which works for those who meet monthly. For those who do not meet monthly, there are alternative methods for approval. We have snowbirds, and it is hard for them to record the activities as they travel. Dick explained the process that the board is working on setting up a form for those special issues so that members can complete the form wherever they are and get an approval from the Branch President or the Branch Safety Officer. If no internet is available, then a phone call to either the Branch President or the Safety Director getting their permission to attend is sufficient. The Branch Officer contacted must record and document the phone conversation. Dick reiterated that all that is necessary is documentation; minutes of a board meeting or member meeting are not required. Events that are already EDGETA sponsored events do not require approval.

Branch 15 person asked about an EDGETA member operating other people's equipment at a parade. Dick replied that if the person documents an activity as an EDGETA activity, then the person will be covered. The events do not have to be reported to the national organization, but must be approved by the local branch to which the person belongs.

Branch 52 inquired about having activities regarding doing something in conjunction with another event. Dick gave an example differentiating between participating in parades at the event and holding a branch sponsored pull, for example.

George then explained the decision of the board regarding requiring the wearing of helmets in the garden tractor pulls. The board ruled that the helmets will be optional. It is a safety issue for the driver, but EDGETA provides liability insurance, so the driver is not really covered anyway.

The next item was committee reports.

### **Safety and Youth Driver**

Don Young thanked the group for being safe. In his area, one of the issues was that people are loading tractors that are not running properly, so he urged members to be certain their tractor is in good running condition. Other items he reviewed were issue with leaving engines running unattended, leaving tractors running unattended, and working with tractors that do not have good brakes. He reminded members if you leave your engine running, be certain to have

someone there to shut it off. Also, turn off the tractor if you are not there. Use wheel chucks if your tractor does not have good brakes.

### **Steam**

George reported that one of the members of the Steam Committee passed away this year. Steam issues have been running well, and the national guidelines have been pushed out, so it is running safer. Steam schools seem to be going well. Dick urged those interested in Steam to attend Steam School and acquire a Steam License.

### **Financial Report**

George reported that in the past, the Financial Reports were posted on the website; it is a public website so the board decided not was not good to post our finances on the site for the general public. What the Board decided was to include an Annual Financial report in the box with the buttons and stickers when they are mailed to the branches early in the year. Those reports should be shared with the branch members.

Total income for 2015 was \$118,052.64. Total expenses were \$114,497.85 for a net income of \$3,554.79. We had \$76,923.01 in our savings account. Those funds are there in the event of increases in insurance; they will be used to bridge those increases in cost. Also, it is available to pay small claims to prevent the risk of our premiums increasing.

Again, the Annual Financial Report will go in the box with the buttons and stickers in February.

### **Website**

George reported that we continue to work to improve the website. Also, we are working to provide some form of documentation for attending the non-EDGETA shows. George asked members to notify board members if they have a suggestion for improvement of the website including incorrect information, errors in the forms, and in the FAQ's. We try to put information in those for quick reference. If they do not make sense, please notify the board member so that those can be corrected. One specific comment was under #19, which states that members are covered anywhere they go. That was discussed at the Board Meeting and plan to change that wording. Dick replied that those are the kinds of information the Board needs to be certain that the correct information is posted. The Board relies on membership to assist in making the information accurate, so members were urged to contact any board member if they see any discrepancies.

### **National & Regional Shows**

Morrie Robinson announced that of course the 2016 is now in process. Morrie asked members to look on the website for the remaining shows for the 2016 year. He explained that starting in 2017, the board divided the regions of the US into 3 regions for National Shows: NE-SE is one region, NC-SC is one region, and NW-SW is one region for hosting National Meetings. Also

beginning in 2017, there will be no Regional Show in the Region that hosts the National Show. So in 2017, the National Meeting will be in Fruitport, MI, June 8-10 hosted by Branch 42. In 2018, the National Show will be in Emporia, KS hosted by Branch 107. Hopefully, the new system will allow members all over the US to have a National Meeting near enough to their location to allow them to attend. There was a question regarding using the Branch # in sequence to select the host of the show. Morrie's reply stated that process will still be the method for hosting, but it will include the section of the US hosting the show for that year.

### **Newsletter**

George encouraged members to read the Newsletter. It is posted on the website and is mailed to two officers of each branch. To increase access to the information, the board decided to mail it to two officers of each branch, hoping that more information would be more available to members. He also reiterated that the Newsletters are posted on the website and are available to all members. He encouraged members to read the information.

### **Hall of Fame:**

George announced 8 recipients this year. At the South Central Show, Tommy Addison was awarded the Hall of Fame award posthumously. The others are still yet to be given. Those are Alan Shurman, Harvey Dale, and Gilbert Merry in the NW Region and David Melton, Becky Melton, Linda Keasling, and Floyd Moore in the NC Region. These have made significant contributions to EDGETA over the past years and have made the hobby what it is today.

George then turned the meeting back over to Mike Pollok.

Mike stated the dinner would be at 6:30. He encouraged those in attendance to look over what is there. The event is the celebration of the colonists who came to Alaska in 1935. He thanked the members for coming the distance to Alaska to be at the event.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.