

THE S. S. A. ANNUAL MEETING

by Arthur L. Lawrence

The two-day Annual Meeting of the S.S.A., concluded Sunday evening, February 12, at the Roosevelt Field Hotel, Mineola, L. I., will undoubtedly be looked back to as marking the beginning of a new era of soaring progress in the United States.

The business transacted by approximately 100 Soaring Society members included a concise, 10-point National Soaring Program for Federal aid, specific recommendations to Congress and branches of the Federal government for immediate action, the determining and clarifying of Soaring Society policies, the election of Col. Robert Olds of Langley Field, Va., and Dr. George W. Lewis, Research Director of the N.A.C.A., to the directorate and the re-election of all officers, the working out of rules and regulations for the Decennial Soaring Contest, the turning over to the Society of the Warren E. Eaton Memorial Soaring Trophy, the purchase of a Schweizer 2-place sailplane for the Society, the formation of a national soaring research committee and the appointment of Henry N. Wightman as the new general manager.

An 8-hour Directors' meeting was held Friday night at the Hotel New Yorker. This was followed by the luncheon and opening session at Roosevelt Field Hotel, starting shortly after noon on Saturday. After the luncheon our president, Richard C. duPont, opened the meeting with an address of welcome, and outlined what he hoped would be the concrete results of the conference—a hope which has been more than realized.

He then introduced Mrs. Eaton, who spoke briefly about her purpose in establishing the Warren E. Eaton Memorial Soaring Trophy. Mrs. Eaton said she felt that there should be annual recognition of the person who has made the outstanding contribution to the art, sport or science of soaring in the United States, and she hoped that the trophy would be a fitting means by which this might be done. Her Awards Committee is able and distinguished, and is composed of Edward P. Warner, of the C.A.A., Chairman; Col. J. Carroll Cone, of Pan American Airways; William R. Enyart, of the N.A.A.; Major Lester Gardner, Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences; and Dr. George W. Lewis, of the N.A.C.A.

The solid silver Trophy was executed by the noted sculptress, Sally J. Franham; it shows in relief spirally ascending cumulus clouds above which Warren's Falcon sailplane soars. The Trophy will be awarded for the first time during the Tenth Annual National Soaring Contest at Elmira this summer.

The first conference session followed, led by Henry Wightman, Chairman. However, it was found impossible to confine discussion to the specific subject, glider instruction, so that all the related problems of gliding and soaring activity were brought up. Several hours of open debate clarified the issues, and led to the passage of four resolutions. It should be mentioned that Richard

duPont had an appointment for Monday, the 13th, with Congressman Albert J. Engel, Republican of Michigan, a member of the Military Appropriations Committee, to talk over what specific things might be done by the Federal government with regard to soaring. The resolutions follow:

1. The Soaring Society of America makes formal application to the C. A. A. Technical Development Section to purchase all such gliders and sailplanes as are necessary for a full investigation of training and soaring.
2. The Soaring Society of America requests that the Civil Aeronautics Authority train 100 soaring pilots at a school or schools to be recommended by the Soaring Society of America and at a cost of not more than \$250 per student.
3. The Soaring Society of America makes formal application to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics to purchase all such gliders and sailplanes as are necessary for a full investigation of training and soaring.
4. The Soaring Society of America recommends that the Army Air Corps be asked to purchase one single place and two two-place sailplanes for advanced training in soaring flight at Randolph Field.

The significance of these resolutions is that the first would aid glider manufacturers to get the gliders they have designed, approved and should give them a certain revenue to keep their businesses going. The second would indirectly help finance approved soaring schools. The third would aid in the development of American sailplane designs and the fourth would demonstrate to the government the value of soaring experience in the advanced training of airplane pilots.

The Construction and Manufacturing Session followed, with Floyd Sweet, Chairman. He used a report prepared by Jay Buxton as an outline. The business conducted is condensed in the following resolutions, which the members believed would materially aid in solving equipment problems for the soaring movement.

1. The Soaring Society of America requests that the Civil Aeronautics Authority make known the names of those persons in charge of glider analysis in the Airworthiness Division.
2. Be it resolved that an effort be made to obtain reciprocal agreements on licensing gliders from the British Gliding Association and with all other countries which have responsible licensing agencies, with the exception of those with whom such agreements are already in force.
3. Be it resolved that The Soaring Society of America request all builders to supply manufacturing information. The nature of this information shall be determined by a committee appointed by the Soaring Society of America, (i.e. manufacturing costs, weights, man hours, etc.).
4. Be it resolved that The Soaring Society of America prepare and send out questionnaires to determine the potential market for every type of glider.
5. Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of The Soaring Society of America appoint all necessary committees to carry out the above resolutions.

After an informal supper at the Hotel, some fifty members remained for a showing of several reels of soaring movies. A majority later went out to the Hay Loft for refreshments, dancing and pointers on the Shag by several couples of jitter bugs (not S. S. A. members).