

SSA NEWS

MID-WINTER DIRECTORS' MEETING

The Directors convened for the annual mid-winter meeting at the Hotel Lexington in New York City on January 26-28, 1956. Fourteen Directors were present in person, six by proxy and two were absent. This is one of the finest turn-out of Directors in recent years.

The Treasurer reported cash on hand for the Society is about the same as last year at this time even though \$1,000 had been taken from the general fund and placed in the Life Membership Endowment Fund.

The Secretary reported that on overall memberships and subscriptions there has been a reduction. On the brighter side, however, although subscriptions fell off, there has been a gain in all types of memberships except associate, which has slipped.

The President reported that Mr. A. J. Selby is working on a statistical analysis of SSA memberships and presented a partial report. It is indicated this report, when completed, will be most useful in strengthening the SSA membership.

All but two committees submitted reports covering their activities for the past year. Some committees have been more active than others, but all showed progress. The Directors took cognizance of the splendid efforts of the Publications Committee and commended them for the excellent quality of SOARING and its regularity of publication.

Of interest is an authorized change in the SSA official pin. The diameter will be increased slightly to make the printing more easily read. There also will be published an information folder containing pertinent data on the Society and information which will answer most questions usually asked of the Society. These will be available to soaring groups for promotional use.

The Directors, recognizing the necessity for a coordinated effort to bring more youth into the soaring movement, requested the Youth Air Education Committee to prepare a program for consideration at the next Directors' meeting. The Committee has also been asked to draw up the terms of a competition to be held among the SSA clubs and groups with the Awards Committee arranging for suitable trophies.

After approval of the seeding list for the 1956 World Meet, the following were selected for the team: Paul F. Bikle, William S. Ivans, Jr., Paul B. MacCready, Jr., and Kempes Trager. The team then elected B. L. Wiggins as its captain.

Lacking a policy on the standing of the current national champion, it was voted that in the future he shall automatically be a member of the U. S. International Soaring Team.

To clarify an apparent misunderstanding, the Directors placed themselves on record as not considering at the present time any plans to determine the national soaring champion by a "Class" competition. They also invited the 1-26 One Design Association to designate one of its members as an ex-officio member of the SSA Contest Committee.

Plans for publishing the 1956 SSA Directory were approved. Publication is planned for March of this year.

The Directors took cognizance of the forthcoming 25th anniversary of the founding of the Society and the President was instructed to appoint a committee to prepare for a suitable celebration sometime near the anniversary date which is May 10, 1957.

The Awards Committee reported a nomination was in order for the Lilienthal Medal. Lyle Maxey was recommended for this medal on the basis of his World Goal and Return flight established on September 4, 1955. This medal is awarded annually by the FAI.

In accordance with a recent change to the By-Laws, the following officers were elected to assume their duties at the time and place of the Annual U. S. National Soaring Competitions. Re-elected were: F. J. Sweet, President; Paul A. Schweizer, Secretary; E. J. Reeves, Treasurer. Newly elected Vice-Presidents are Stanley W. Smith, East Coast, and Paul F. Bikle, West Coast. There being some conflicts in the election of Directors at a time other than at the election of officers, the President was instructed to have prepared a complete revision of the By-Laws for consideration at the next Directors' meeting.

The Directors first convened at 2:00 p.m. on January 26 and closed their final session at 11:00 a.m. on January 28.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On the evening of January 27 at the Hotel Lexington, New York City, the Directors met at an informal dinner with SSA members in the New York area. About 40 were in attendance with Alex Dawydoff as M.C.

The President answered many questions which were asked by the members and gave a short informal talk on the status of the Society.

SSA Certificates of Merit were presented to Betsy Woodward, Lyle Maxey and Paul Bikle for National and International records established during 1955.

A guest at the dinner was Mr. Herbert Fisher, Chairman of the Aviation Commission of the New York Port Authority.

The meeting concluded with several interesting stories recounting exceptional flights. Chief story tellers were Steve Bennis, Paul Bikle and Bill Ivans.

PROGRESS IN MICHIGAN

The Michigan Soaring Association is really going all out. A recent roster of their membership shows an even 100. The thoroughness with which they have organized and the plans for a soaring site near Detroit indicate careful planning and a bright future.

With the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan, they are sponsoring a glider display from March 31 to April 5, at which everything from "hang" wings to "Alibi" and the 2-25 will be on display. Frank R. Davis, Curator of Mechanical Arts of the Museum, is enthusiastically preparing for this event.

It will depict the role Michigan has played in gliding and soaring since Octave Chanute's pioneering flights in 1896 near Frankfort, Michigan. A show all should see if in the Detroit area.

MEMBERSHIPS

The renewals of those memberships which expired in December 1955 are coming in at a gratifying rate. This is most encouraging.

It is hoped that all members will renew in time to make this year's edition of the Membership Directory. It will be printed soon after you receive this issue of SOARING.