

SSA NEWS

DIRECTORS' MEETING

A bi-annual SSA Directors' meeting was held in Denver, Colorado, on January 31st and February 1st. Important decisions and actions taken are summarized below.

SOARING magazine will be published on a monthly basis beginning with the July, 1959, issue, for a minimum period of 18 months. A part time associate editor will be hired to help with the added work load. Because of the increased frequency of SOARING, Members' Newsletters will be published only as needed after No. 9 in April.

SSA By-laws were amended to remove the age limit for Student Membership. Qualification now reads "enrolled full time in school or college."

Other by-laws amendments created two new membership classes. The first was "Honorary Members—A person who has made a substantial contribution to the furtherance of the activities of the Society. Honorary Members shall also have a life tenure without payment of dues but shall be entitled to all of the privileges of a regular Member of the Society, including the right to vote. Honorary Members shall be selected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at a regular meeting thereof."

The second membership class created gives a formal definition for SSA Chapters. "A Chapter shall be an approved organization that has at least seven full Members of SSA and in which all other members hold some grade of SSA membership." A definite step has thus been taken to formally affiliate the various U. S. soaring clubs with SSA and it should be easier for more clubs to qualify for Chapter status. The main benefit a Chapter derives is the privilege of insuring club-owned sailplanes under the SSA master policies. In addition, the Chapter receives a free subscription to SOARING for its library or promotional purposes. The Directors added two more benefits, the first being a reduced sanction fee of \$10.00 for local or regional soaring contests. (The sanction fee for other organizations was set at \$25.00). And, for Chapters that have 100% full Members and Student Members of SSA, an annual rebate of \$2.00 per Member will be made to the Chapter, either on



Photo: Terry White

SSA Directors take a portrait break at Denver. L to R around the table: Ben Cohen, Paul Schweizer (V.P.), Bill Ivans, Bob Moore, Bob Smith, Joe ("I second the motion") Lincoln (V.P.), Ted Sharp (Treas.), Joe Robertson (Sec.), Dr. Harner Selvidge (Pres.), Lloyd Licher (Exec. Sec.), Bill Fuchs, Dick Johnson, Paul Bikle, Tennis Mahoney and John Nawak.

March 1st or September 1st. These steps were taken to encourage SSA membership growth through the local clubs. It cannot be emphasized too often how much a strong SSA means to every soaring enthusiast. Your club may now add its direct support by becoming an SSA Chapter.

(Note: Clubs may apply for Chapter status in a letter from the Secretary-Treasurer or President, accompanied by an up-to-date roster of all club members and a check for the SSA dues of those not already in the Society. The roster is checked, all new SSA memberships are processed from it and the club is advised of the SSA status of each member and discrepancies, if any. When all is in order, the application is approved and club so notified, with copies to the SSA insurance agent and SSA Contest Board. The Chapter is liable for the SSA dues of all the members on its official roster at renewal times. The Chapter Treasurer is notified as to which memberships are about to lapse. In this way individual members of Chapters never receive renewal solicitations from SSA. The Chapter treasurer should notify SSA of all changes to the official roster as they occur.)

Meanwhile, back at the Directors' meeting, platforms for four new committees were added to the Annex of the by-laws. These defined responsibilities for the Air Space Committee, the Elections and Allocations Committee, the Finance and Insurance Committee and the Safety and Flight Operations Committee.

A number of important decisions affecting the 1958 Nationals were

made and are described elsewhere under "Nationals Notes."

Deadline for submission of bids for future Nationals was moved up to November 1st of the previous year. This should provide sponsors with sufficient time to obtain proper local support.

A proposal for a regional contest elimination system to establish qualifications to fly in the Nationals was discussed. Since there has been little need to limit the number of entrants in the Nationals, no action will be taken on such a plan until a real need does exist. However, it was voted to have SSA endorse the concept of regional contests and do everything within its power to encourage sanctioned, properly conducted regional contests. The top three pilots in any such contest will be guaranteed a right of entry in the Nationals. Members in the various regions are urged to support their local champions and, if possible, help send them to the Nationals. Regional soaring champions will not be recognized as such by SSA unless the contest is sanctioned and only sanctioned contests will receive full publicity coverage in SOARING.

Authorization to proceed with the preparation and publication of the "American Soaring Handbook" on a chapter basis was given to the editors of the Handbook, as described elsewhere in this issue of SOARING.

The Board decided that SSA should become a member of the General Aviation Council. GAC is composed of national aviation organizations and will be the chief advisory group for general aviation to the new FAA Chief, E. R. Quesada.