

## REPORT OF DIRECTORS' ACTIONS

To many SSA members, the annual mid-winter Directors' meeting of the Society may pass unnoticed, unless some action is taken that immediately concerns them. In the affairs of the SSA however, this meeting is of vital importance, and in the long run determines the future of the Society and all its members. The Directors meet twice a year; a two-day meeting in late January, and a one-day meeting at the time and place of the National Soaring Championships. The latter has not proved to be a very productive meeting in past years. Many of the Directors are flying in the contest and it is hard to get and hold a quorum, and equally hard to hold the attention of those who do appear. Consequently the mid-winter meeting is the time when most of the serious business is transacted.

In order to equalize travel expense as much as possible, the meeting this year was held at Kansas City, where the local soaring group proved to be splendid hosts. Eighteen of our twenty-five Directors were in attendance. Oldtimers said that this was the largest group of SSA Directors that had ever attended a Directors' meeting. While some Directors were able to work the dates into a business trip, all SSA members should be particularly proud of the ten who attended it entirely at their own expense, some coming from as far away as the east and west coasts.

The Directors worked from a four-page list of agenda items, thirty-one in all, which was distributed in advance so they would have time to consider each item before they came to the meeting. By dint of keeping strictly to business and resisting the almost continuous temptation to wander off into the blue, every item was thoroughly discussed and acted upon. In addition to numerous matters discussed without formal vote, there were 34 motions of which 26 were passed unanimously, 7 by a majority, and one defeated. We are sure that anyone attending the meeting would have agreed that the discussions were very lively in spots, and the Board was by no means rubber-stamping actions and recommendations of committees and its officers. It is likely that not all of the decisions made will meet with the approval of all SSA members, but the Directors voted for what they believed to be best for the Society, bearing in mind the wishes of the majority of the members, as well as they knew them. Only Regions 1 and 7 were not represented by Directors in attendance, so virtually all points of view, geographic and otherwise, were represented.

Some of the important decisions were noted in February SOARING, and others will be described in detail in the news columns and articles in later issues. It is not feasible to explain all of them on this page, but

a few important ones can be mentioned. Clubs with extensive training programs will be interested in learning that we are reviving the old "A" and "B" badges to serve as incentives in early basic training. Details will be forthcoming in an early issue. The plan to request FAA to require an Instructor's rating to certify students ready for solo, or for flight test, was announced in SOARING last month. The Directors hope that this will be a step forward in improving the caliber of soaring instruction.

Plans were made to obtain more full-time help in the Executive Secretary's office. It is hoped that this will permit more rapid action on inquiries from members and others, as well as assist in improving the quality and promptness of publication of SOARING magazine. The doubling of our membership in the past two years has induced growing pains that we are trying to cure as soon as possible, and we crave your indulgence in the interim. In this connection it should be pointed out that in an organization such as the SSA it is never going to be possible to afford enough fulltime paid help to do all the things that our members would like to have done for them. We must have your help whenever possible. Ask your SSA State Governor or Director how you can be of assistance.

Decisions made regarding the 1960 Nationals have already drawn comment pro and con. The Directors felt that first priority should be given to the picking of the U. S. National Champion. In support of this point of view, it was decided to limit the number of contestants by stiffening entrance requirements, since the Odessa airport facilities cannot handle all those who wish to come. In view of the lack of interest in team entries in the past, and the current lack of sailplanes meeting OSTIV Standard Class requirements, it was decided not to name national champions in these categories this year. The Directors did vote to encourage one-class competitions locally and eventually nationally.

Even with hard work, it is impossible for the Directors to handle all the continuing problems of the SSA in a two-day meeting. The growth of our organization in the future is going to depend as it has in the past on the grass-roots activities of our members, particularly those serving on our committees. A list of these committees and their chairmen is given in this issue. Any SSA member who would like to work in any of these fields should write the chairman offering his services. Newcomers to soaring are especially welcome. We need your new slant to our problems and your enthusiasm. Don't worry if your soaring experience is limited. The willingness to devote time and energy to soaring matters when you are *not* at the airport is much more important. Let's hear from you. H.S.