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REPORT TO THE BOARD

January 7, 2010

As my current term of office draws to a close, I am distributing this report to synopsise my activities during 2009. First, I disseminated thirteen issues of the "Passing the Word" newsletter during the year to inform the Board of ongoing matters of which they needed to be informed. I initiated this communications system during my first term as NPGA President in 2007, and the feedback generated was overwhelmingly positive. The 2009 newsletters attempted to keep the Board informed of all issues, in a timely manner, which arose during the year. From all indications, the system worked.

The subject of membership decline continues to come up. The year 2009 saw another significant decrease. In my region (Region 2), there were 33 members who did not renew since the last Board meeting in June. I prevailed on the Business Manager to send me a list of those former Region 2 members, and I sent a questionnaire out to all of them asking them for their feedback on why they were leaving us. I don't yet know what kind of results this will provide, but doing something is always better than doing nothing. I would ask how many of you have made this kind of effort.

Since the last Board meeting, there have been no new Compliance cases filed with the Compliance Committee. There have been a few inquiries of the chair, but no cases are currently being processed.

As a number of you are aware, there seems to be a discrepancy regarding the Master Champion Challenge rules which were discussed and amended during the last Board meeting in June 2009. The minutes of the meeting reflect the approval of Motion #2009-24 which made several changes to paragraph I (the letter I) of the Rules for Official Shows, but left intact the requirement that the grand of the show must compete in any Master Champion Challenge class held. It later surfaced that a major misunderstanding existed which has resulted in shows holding such classes excluding the grand of the show from competing. I have asked the Secretary to review the tapes of the meeting in an effort to determine how this discrepancy could have happened, but no resolution of the problem has occurred. I have agendized this issue under Old Business so we can ensure that the conduct of future Master Champion Challenge classes are accomplished in accordance with duly approved rules which accurately reflect the will of the Board.

Most required reports have been submitted and posted on our NPGA website. The official dissemination of those reports to you by the Vice President occurred today. The stragglers' reports will be posted and disseminated as they are received. Additionally, the backup material relating to all Old and New Business items are similarly posted on our website; those should be reviewed as well. It is an absolute necessity that Directors come to the Board meeting conversant on all matters they will consider and discuss during the meeting. You should also inform yourselves on the mood of your constituents on all matters that will ultimately affect them.

I am only aware of one Director at this juncture who will not be attending the January Board meeting; Vice President Michael O'Kelly has informed me that he has an irresolvable job conflict. If any other Director finds him/herself unable to attend, please let me know.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Board that I intend to run for re-election to the office of President. Elections will occur early on the first day of the January Board meeting, according to the provisions of paragraph 1.A of the Rules and Regulations.

See you in Baton Rouge.

Ray Hoyt