

MICHIGAN STATE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
Meeting of the Board 4 PM, Feb. 10, 2008 Kellogg Center, East Lansing

I. Call to Order Bobrofsky

At 4:05pm President Ann Bobrofsky attempted to call the meeting to order. As there was no quorum, informal discussions ensued until the arrival of director Greg Guseff, who arrived at 4:20pm. The meeting was then called to order. Weather was wintry, extreme.

II. Roll Call LeBlanc

Present: Ann Bobrofsky, Joe LeBlanc, Tom Klunzinger, Ken Leach, Dany Rothfeld, Larry Sekulich, Mike Strub, Julianna Wostyn. Late: Greg Guseff at 4:18pm

Absent: Larry Swisher, Kelly Finger, Mike Dennany, Steve Friedman, Wayne Hall, Robert Lusch, Dr. Andrew Parks, legal counsel Ron Sirna.

III. Introduction of visitors Bobrofsky

Brian Malnar, Convention Coordinator; Brian Tideswell, Dave Henderson, member; Bill Summerell, Case Chairman; Al Bobrofsky, past President.

IV. Invocation LeBlanc

V. Minutes of Nov. 24, 2007 LeBlanc

Klunzinger moved, and Wostyn seconded that the minutes be approved as mailed, which motion passed.

VI. Additions to Agenda Board

New: New Business H Fall 2008 bourse fee - LeBlanc
New Business I Club position regarding robbery - LeBlanc
Old Business E New exhibitor award - Klunzinger
Old Business F Monroe field trip at next convention - Summerell

VII. Approve Agenda Board

Klunzinger moved, and Rothfeld seconded that the Agenda be approved as amended, which motion passed.

VIII. Director Absences LeBlanc

No need to take action on absences at this time.

IX. Appointments Bobrofsky

None

X. Membership Comments Bobrofsky

None

XI. Officer Reports

A. President Bobrofsky

None

B. Vice President Swisher

Absent

C. Secretary-Treasurer LeBlanc

1. Review Current Financials

a. Regular

CD \$25k 5.2% Matures March 2008

CD \$10K 5% Matures April 08

Checking Account (Jan. 18) \$6400 approx.

b. Life

CD \$25K 5% Matures, March 08

CD \$15K 5% Matures, July 08

CD \$10K 5% Matures, June 08

CD \$50K 5% Matures, Sept. 08

Savings Account \$700

c. Cash Reserve

CD \$10K 5% Matures Sept. 08

d. Pruchnicki Trust

i. Remainder of coins – 2 coins left, sold for \$70

ii. New Liberty Bank CD 5 % Matures April 08 \$12666. Cost of awards from fall convention has already been withdrawn from this fund. Goal is not to carry this fund perpetually, but to expend it for the purposes for which it has been designated. Klunzinger voiced support for continuing the awards as before despite rising costs, using the Pruchnicki trust to supplement as needed. Ann Bobrofsky noted that the sponsorships have reduced our costs as well.

2. Membership Report

a. Member Totals We gained about 150-160 new members by giving away books, and now have: 683 regular, 20 honorary life, 464 life, 63 junior/YNs, and 24 clubs. Also 6 libraries/editors.

Members who don't pay by March 31 are dropped. Last time Joe LeBlanc looked, about 200 memberships remained unpaid. Another letter will be sent about March 1 to remind these. Past experience is that we will get over a hundred of these to pay, so we will typically lose about 100 members, as we do each year, for non-payment of dues. Many dealers and dealer assistants don't pay dues based on dues notices, but instead pay based on show registrations.

Muskegon club mail has been returned for awhile, so we may have lost this club. We need assistance contacting them.

3. Property Report

No changes from November report. We sold a few of our silver anniversary medals at the November show, don't have a current count. We may raise the cost of these if silver continues to rise.

4. Fall 07 Report

Reviewed-Approved

5. 2007 Report

a. Finance review report Leach

Ken Leach is satisfied with the books based on his auditing efforts. **Leach moved, and Rothfeld seconded that the 2007 Finance report be approved as provided to the board, which motion passed.**

Joe LeBlanc has gotten the 1099 forms out for 2007 payments.

6. Spring 08 Budget

LeBlanc

This budget is based on the prior year. A small loss is budgeted due to the reduction of our bourse fee by \$50/table x 140 tables. The cost of the Educational Forum has jumped from \$300 to \$1000 due to Monroe educational trip.

We'll need to increase that cost even further based on projected expenses. The raffle stands to possibly lose money, so we may revise the awards within the latitude provided by the descriptions in the application for our raffle license.

Joe LeBlanc suggested to change the second prize from 1 ounce to ½ ounce, and/or to raise the price of 100 tickets from \$70 to \$75. Klunzinger noted that Don Charters' health issues may dramatically impact the pre-sales of these tickets that he usually does. **Klunzinger moved, and Leach seconded that the Spring 2008 budget be approved, which motion passed.**

7. 2008 Budget

LeBlanc

Klunzinger moved, and Guseff seconded that the 2008 budget be approved. It was then noted that this is a small-deficit budget, and that Michigan law may forbid that approval as stated. The board therefore changed the level of donations to MSNS, where we expected \$250, be increased to \$3000. Klunzinger and Guseff agreed to the change, leading to \$1050 on the positive side budgeted for the year. **The motion then passed.**

XII. Old Business

A. Schlag Memorial Update

Al Bobrofsky

This cause now has \$2661 cash on hand. 3 more pattern reproduction sets have been sold at \$150 apiece. The stone has been placed, and we are now asking the state for official permission to erect an historical plaque.

B. 501 © 7 Change Status

LeBlanc

We filed to change our status back in December of 2006. Communications continued through the summer of 2007. IRS is not returning Joe LeBlanc's phone calls. It seems still to be in process. At last board meeting, we had requested that legal counsel write a letter if there were no change by now – there hasn't been – so we will go ahead and request him to do so.

C. MSNS Coats

LeBlanc

Joe LeBlanc has talked with a tailor / seamstress – we could get new coats with fairly close colors to what is already in use for about \$250 each. The polo / golf shirt option is still possible at \$25 each approximately. Action should be taken by the new 2009-2010 board, Joe LeBlanc suggested. Mike Strub felt we should go ahead and get some larger jackets. Several felt these were too expensive. Tom Klunzinger said he will check with a uniform supplier and get quotations.

D. Hattie Awards

Al Bobrofsky

The Past Presidents have met, as reported in the previous board minutes, and have recommended 8 names. Al Bobrofsky recommends the board accept all 8. **Klunzinger moved, and Rothfeld seconded that we accept all 8 recommended names for the Hattie award as provided by the Past Presidents, and that the Secretary Treasurer and President consider age in prioritizing the recipients, which motion passed.**

E. New Exhibitor Award

Klunzinger

Klunzinger says we have always tried to emulate CSNS – they have a “best new exhibitor” award. Ann Bobrofsky advised Tom Klunzinger to discuss this with the Exhibit committee. Rotheld stated that the exhibit committee had previously reject the idea. Klunzinger asked for the board to give their views – and for us to have this on the April agenda.

F. Educational Trip

Summerell

A bus is reserved. Trip not to start too early, e.g. 10:30am. Bill Summerell will send write-up to Mike Strub for MichMatist. Will keep it free, but if must charge, money is to be paid to Joe LeBlanc.

XIII. New Business

A. Election

LeBlanc

a. Appoint Chair

Bobrofsky

President Ann Bobrofsky has the right to appoint a committee or a CPA to conduct the next board election. Pat Heller is willing, so President Bobrofsky appoints him. **Klunzinger moved, and Leach seconded, board approval of President Ann Bobrofsky's appointment of Pat Heller to conduct our upcoming 2008 board election, which motion passed.**

b. Disclosure

LeBlanc

Joe LeBlanc requested to give full disclosure of nominated individuals and who has accepted/declined via the web site for the 2008 election. **Klunzinger moved, and Leach seconded, a motion that Joe LeBlanc shall timely and often post the names of nominees and whether they have declined or accepted officer nominations to the MSNS website during the month of April, 2008 and thereafter until the election, which motion passed.**

B. Club Membership Expense

LeBlanc

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LeBlanc

About 2 ½ weeks ago Jerry Lebo of CSNS sent LeBlanc a notice that our dues for 2008 are past due. LeBlanc had thought that we were a life member club since he had not received dues notices in the past years. Lebo said we were not a life member, but that our dues had just recently been paid by Tom Klunzinger and upon further discussions between LeBlanc and Lebo that Klunzinger had been paying the dues for the last 5 years. Though seemingly an act of generosity, this greatly disturbed LeBlanc, who stated that all funds and expenses must go through him as our Secretary/Treasurer. He also wondered whether we have other items going through Klunzinger, as the ex-business manager, without board knowledge or approval. Klunzinger said no, this was all. President Ann Bobrofsky stated that she had spoken with Klunzinger earlier today and had asked him to stop. LeBlanc next asked whether the CSNS ballots had been voted on our behalf by Klunzinger in the last elections. He said that he had simply set the ballots aside.

Larry Sekulich and Julianna Wostyn next expressed their deep concern about this situation. The reason CSNS did not know our address had changed was because Klunzinger never notified the Lansing Post Office of a change of address, contrary to prior board requests. **Wostyn moved and Sekulich seconded that Klunzinger notify the post office in Lansing to close PO Box 16231 under the current names on their records, and to reopen the box (if Klunzinger desired) without MSNS being listed as a mail recipient, that this be done by the next board meeting, and the Klunzinger provide proof from the post office that this was done. Motion passed.**

Joe LeBlanc stated that he does not have a high degree of trust that all dealings currently being conducted on behalf of the MSNS are yet known to the real and current MSNS Secretary/Treasurer. Klunzinger replied that he doesn't receive any other MSNS mailings.

C. Raffle Prizes

LeBlanc

Joe LeBlanc asked if the board wanted to move to increase the cost of 100 tickets from \$70 to \$75, and to reduce the second prize to ½ ounce of gold from the current full ounce. **Rothfeld moved, and Wostyn seconded, that the board both increase the cost of 100 MSNS Convention raffle tickets from \$70 to \$75, and that they reduce the second prize from one full ounce of gold to a half ounce of gold.** Brian Malnar suggested that 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prizes could be 10 ounce silver bars rather than gold. Mike Strub held that our club can well afford to take only one of these two actions, and especially that the wealth of our state club obviates the necessity to increase costs to local clubs by raising ticket prices. Therefore **Klunzinger moved, and Strub seconded to separate the two issues, which motion failed by a vote of 3 to 5. The original motion then was put to a vote and passed by a vote of 5 to 2 as follows: Guseff – yes, Klunzinger – no, Leach – yes, Rothfeld – yes, Sekulich – yes, Strub – no, Wostyn – yes.**

D. Hospitality Room Access/Host

Bobrofsky

Hostess Rita Jean is in rehab and out of the hospital; or possibly still in the hospital. Hostesses Marge Stroshine and Rita Jean have objected to the number of people coming up to the hospitality room. They asked if we could limit the people coming up, and were reported to have said that they would consider continuing running the room under such a circumstance. Bill Summerell and Brian Malnar said they did not believe either would continue running this room whether or not this action were taken. Kathy Freeland and Julianna Wostyn have been approached to serve as the new hostesses of the hospitality room; Julianna agreed to serve, and Kathy is believed likely to accept. MSNS thanks them. Al Bobrofsky asked that our president, Ann Bobrofsky, send a letter of thanks to Rita Jean and Marge Stroshine for their service. First, Malnar will ensure that they know the torch has been passed.

Klunzinger moved, and Rothfeld seconded, to reaffirm that access to the hospitality room is limited to board members and convention committee workers (including exhibit judges and exhibitors). Brian Malnar was asked his opinion, and he agreed with all but the “exhibitors.” **Klunzinger withdrew, and Rothfeld agreed, the words “and exhibitors” from his motion. Rothfeld and Klunzinger also added “as identified by convention badges and/or ribbons.” The amended motion was put to a vote and passed.**

E. Life Membership funds encumber

LeBlanc

LeBlanc opined that Life membership funds are not currently encumbered in any way – they can be spent at will by the board. Joe LeBlanc asked that the board move that in order for these funds to be spent from, it would require a 2/3 vote of the board and the concurrence of the President or the Secretary-Treasurer. The funds so encumbered would not include the interest that these funds might generate. **Wostyn moved, and Strub seconded that the \$100k in life membership funds may not be spent by the board unless by a vote of at least 2/3 of the elected and serving board plus the concurrence of either the MSNS President or the MSNS Secretary-Treasurer.** Julianna then withdrew her motion on the basis that Ron Sirna needs to give us his opinion on this issue.

F. Spring Show location options

Friedman

Al Bobrofsky spoke for Friedman. He has been calling the hotel(s) in Grand Rapids and not getting any answers.

G. Co-Host Awards (if any)

Board

Birmingham-Bloomfield have requested to sponsor Fall 2008 (Lincoln already on list). They have provided a letter, and last did this in the fall of 2005. Brian Malnar had no objections. **Klunzinger moved, and Wostyn seconded to accept the proposal of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Coin Club to host the Fall, 2008 convention which motion passed.**

Battle Creek, Paper money, Mich-TAMS, Flint, and Marysville have suggested interest in the next available show. Paper Money and Mich-TAMS are noted not to have provided as many people in the past as some other clubs.

Flint and Marysville provided a letter, read by Mike Strub, formally requesting the next available spring show. **Strub moved, and Sekulich seconded that Flint and Marysville be granted the Spring, 2010 show co-hosting responsibilities.** Julianna Wostyn then stated that Marysville would not be willing to host in other than Dearborn or Lansing due to the distance. **Said motion carried.**

H. Fall 2008 bourse fee LeBlanc

Klunzinger moved, and Wostyn seconded to set the bourse fee at \$350 for fall 2008, which motion passed with one dissenting vote.

I. Club position regarding robbery LeBlanc

Bob Palmenter was robbed at gunpoint recently. Local newspapers have been showing his business and his home on television news. **Rothfeld moved that MSNS should get involved in this matter and direct our legal counsel to draft a letter to the offending newspaper. There was no second.**

There appears to be a problem with dealers and collectors being followed home from shows, especially in Grand Rapids.

J. Life member concerns Rothfeld

Two life members approached Dany Rothfeld and expressed disappointment that new members get incentives, and life members don't get anything – i.e., they didn't get a book. Larry Sekulich will address at Committee Reports F.

XIV. Committee Reports

A. Exhibit Passic

We have 3-4 sponsors. Dany Rothfeld would like thank-you votes written to those recurring sponsors by Joe LeBlanc on behalf of the board. Liberty, Harry Laibstain, and Krause will be thanked.

B. Auctions Summerell

a. SilverTowne Meeting LeBlanc

Joe LeBlanc and Ann Bobrofsky have corresponded regarding an issue: per the board action from November, the President was to send a letter to SilverTowne regarding points that could be improved upon. About a month ago, SilverTowne responded with a tone that they were having concerns about going forward due to having taken a loss at the fall 2007 auction. Roughly 50 bidders signed up for bidder numbers, only 28 were present. Their auctioneer has since passed away as well. LeBlanc and President Ann Bobrofsky felt that an MSNS member could be delegated to meet with them. LeBlanc did this. SilverTowne has decided, as a result, to go forward with our spring auction. Joe LeBlanc discussed how to get consignments, more bidders, more participation, etc. We opined through Joe LeBlanc that Saturday was a far better time than Friday to hold the auction, and they agreed to do so. We will do a membership mailing to get consignments. The auction catalog will have fewer pictures and more limited color. MSNS feels that the membership should get behind the auction because it is a benefit to us. Joe LeBlanc requests the board provide \$2000 to \$3000 toward promoting this auction. This would consist of assistance in mailing letters and catalogs. Klunzinger asked that promotional materials mention the convention as well as the auction – but the solicitation letter is already printed so this cannot be done. Wostyn noted that this proposed action is only to spend money that we have already received, and it is a good investment.

Klunzinger moved, and Leach seconded that we spend up to \$2500 promoting the auction, as long as future printings include mention of our conventions, which motion passed.

Part 2: LeBlanc asks that on Sunday, we randomly draw 5 member numbers who, if they were successful bidders on the previous evening, should be reimbursed by MSNS for their purchases up to \$1000. Odds are greatly against having to pay out anything, but it would be a great draw. Another director proposed giving auction dollars by raffle. Joe LeBlanc explained that SilverTowne is already providing coupons with the next mailing of their catalogs that will incentivize bidders. **Klunzinger moved, and Strub seconded that the first 16 MSNS members who are not dealers or assistants at the show and who enter the auction room within 60 minutes of the start of the auction each receive \$50 vouchers toward auction purchases which may not be transferred and for which MSNS will reimburse the auctioneer if used, which motion passed with one dissenting vote.** Mike Strub will provide a notice of this fact in the next MichMatist.

C. Past Presidents Al Bobrofsky

None

D. Mich-Matist

Parks

Mike Strub was praised for his work on the latest issue.

E. Publicity

Open

President Ann Bobrofsky will consider an appointment in the future

F. Membership

Sekulich

Sekulich suggested that three 50th anniversary medals be raffled to the life members at the next convention in order to include them in the generosity evidenced by the free books being given to new and renewing members at the two past conventions. Strub suggested that life members be included in the free book offer instead. The Board members agreed with Strub.

We could ask dealers to give us a link back to our website, especially if they use our logo, which we encourage. Joe LeBlanc noted we have 150 books left to continue our give-away at the spring show.

Sekulich has provided his list of reasons to join the MSNS, now posted to the website but not linked to yet.

1. Commercial show table offer Wostyn

Chuck Sharpe runs the Suburban Detroit Coin Show on Telegraph. He would be more than happy to donate a table to MSNS. We will man it – Thursday/Friday/Saturday show in September. Wostyn and Sekulich are willing to help. A more formal discussion will be held at the next meeting.

G. Conv. Manual

Al Bobrofsky

No Report

H. Conv. Committee

Al Bobrofsky

No Report

I. Communication Clubs Membership Julianna Wostyn

Referring to the mini-convention write-up that Julianna already emailed to everyone, Wostyn asked approval of the board to send this in April. **Klunzinger moved, and Leach seconded to accept the wording and send the mini-convention write-up prepared by Wostyn, except that 6.c. say “up to”, which motion passed.**

Strub moved, and Klunzinger seconded to accept Wostyn’s Spring MSNS communiqué, which motion passed. President Ann Bobrofsky directed Wostyn to send out her proposed MSNS Club Communiqué.

XV. Committee Appointments

XVI. Board Member Comments

XVII. General Membership Comments

XVIII. Adjourned at 7:30pm