

MINUTES FROM THE 2012 RGA ANNUAL MEETING

August 11, 2012

The annual meeting was called to order by Director David Akins.

Those attending the meeting in Oklahoma City were:

David Akins, Jeff Cashion, Matt Woehrle

Dicky Stanley, David Chastain, Dwayne Hagemeyer

Kip Turner, Barbara Chatham,

Larry Putnam, Gary Burden

On a conference call - Scott Trammel

Jeff McIntosh

On a conference call from the California location -

James Miller, Don Swain

Jim Hoffman, Susie Swain

On a conference call from Colorado -

Lee Michels

The meeting was called to order by the Director at 10:15 EST.

Minutes from the 2011 meeting were read and approved unanimously as the first order of business.

First order of the Meeting was the reading of the mission statement for the Reenactment guild of America and was done so by the Director.

Article I: An organization of Living Historians, Educators, Entertainer and Reenactors dedicated to preservation of and education regarding the History of America's 19th century, primarily but not restricted to the American Old West.

Article II: - RGA Goals

The Reenactment Guild of America and its members are dedicated to preserving them History of the 19th Century and the "Old West" by helping communities and State Parks as well as private events celebrate their heritage

1. RGA will help communities in creating new events to help educate the public about the history of the settlers and founders of their communities.

2. RGA will promote Living History events and “Old West” reenactment competitions to help increase tourism in Historical communities and celebrate their heritage.

3. RGA will work with the State Parks and help them with events and Living History Programs to educate the public about our nations’ history and the struggles the first settlers endured.

4. RGA will apply for grants to perform Living history programs to educate people on the history of the West and the 19th Century.

5. RGA will provide talent and production assistance to film companies that are in need of actor/actresses and production supplies. RGA and its members reenact history from all of the 19th century. The trappers and fur traders were some of the first to see the new country called the West. They saw a new land and as word spread, many more followed. Men and women searching for wealth and gold made the hard trip to the gold fields. After the Civil War, many came West looking for a new start after the war had destroyed so many homes and lives. To settle a country all alone, the settlers endured hardships that most cannot conceive. The cattlemen came to a hard country with no law and natives that did not want them on this land. This gave birth to the American cowboy and all that comes with him. Hard work....a little pay. The Indian fighter, Buffalo hunters, outlaws and heroes that make up the history of the 19th century are so important to America. These are the men and women that the Reenactment Guild of America want to keep alive and to be remembered.

There were no recommendations of changes that should change any of the wording. It was unanimous that the Board supported the RGA Mission Statement.

Matt Woehrle recommended that we address the Bylaws as our next order of business. The Director agreed.

Article IV - Section I of the By-laws;

Article IV - Section I of the By-laws;

Matt Woehrle recommended that we revise Section 1 to: There will be a state Board of Officers, the number of which will be determined by the number of each states’ RGA membership. A state having ten (10) RGA members or more will elect a State Director and a State Safety Officer. An additional State board member will be elected for every fifty (50), after the first one hundred (100) within their state and affiliated state. An affiliated state is any state having an RGA member but no RGA organization. On December 31st of each year, each states’ membership will be verified. If it is determined that an affiliated state reached the ten (10) member minimum, the National Election Official will conduct an election in that state in January to elect a State Director and State Safety Officer to serve until the next election period for each respective office. This will ensure that the membership in that state can vote for their choice of officers. The State Board of Officers will become members of the National Board of Officers and be the representative of their states’ membership concerns.

Motion was made and seconded Vote was 15-0

Vote:

Jim Miller	Yes
Jim Hoffman	Yes
Don Swain	Yes
Susie Swain	Yes
Lee Michaels	Yes
Jeff McIntosh	Yes
David Chastain	Yes
Kip turner	Yes
Larry Putnam	Yes
Jeff Cashion	Yes
Barbara Chatam	Yes
Matt Woehrle	Yes
Gary Burden	Yes
Dwayne Hagemeyer	Yes
Scott Trammel	Yes

Article VI - Section II & III of the By-laws.

II. Matt Woehrle recommended that we revise Section II: To help facilitate RGA elections, the RGA Board will appoint a National Election Official to preside over the elections. This official will be appointed to serve a three (3) year term coinciding with the National Directors' election term and can be on any ballot. The National Election official may reside in any state.

III. Recommended: On August 31st, or the next business day, if the 1st falls on a Sunday of the election year, the National Election Official will e-mail or mail, if no e-mail address is provided, a nomination form for open positions to every RGA member. The National Election Official and State Directors will verify acceptance by speaking with each candidate.

Motion was made and seconded: Vote was 15-0

Vote:

Jim Miller	Yes
Jim Hoffman	Yes
Don Swain	Yes
Susie Swain	Yes
Lee Michaels	Yes
Jeff McIntosh	Yes
David Chastain	Yes
Kip turner	Yes
Larry Putnam	Yes
Jeff Cashion	Yes
Barbara Chatam	Yes
Matt Woehrle	Yes
Gary Burden	Yes
Dwayne Hagemeyer	Yes
Scott Trammel	Yes

Topics discussed:

1. Trademark for the name of Reenactment Guild of America. This subject was initiated in last years' meeting. Some research has been conducted by the Secretary and the Treasurer with no final decision made. **Item will continue to be pursued. Lee Michels of Colorado has also volunteered to assist in this.**

2. Formal package to help set up and fund events. Also the process for requesting funds for events from RGA Currently there is a form on the RGA website for requesting funds for events. There was no in-depth discussion on the formal package to help set up and fund events.

No Motions were made

3. Establish rules/guidelines and approved score sheets for costume contests, and maintaining individual awards for best dressed characters in shows/Living History performances Discussion was held and determined that it should be left for each event to decide how costume and other contests outside of what RGA competitions are covered.

No Motions were made

4. Establish rules/guidelines and approved score sheets for encampments.

Discussion was held but no one stepped forward to establish rules/guidelines/score sheets. Hopefully officers and/or members can offer some assistance in this area.

No Motions were made

5. Judging ? Living History performances score sheets? Score sheets too complicated, redundant and need to be streamlined A committee was formed last year from 5 actual living history performers. Dwayne Hagemeyer had informed the Secretary that a draft had been completed and was sent to her. This will be a subject to continue to be worked on.

No Motions were made

7. Mandatory Safety Meetings:

Every competition or event must accomplish three things before performances can begin for insurance to be in effect.

1. Gun Checks; Every gun that is to be carried or used must be checked by a safety officer, or his representative, to make sure it is unloaded, functional, and has no barrel obstructions before they are authorized for usage. Gun belts should also be checked for any live rounds or blanks.

2. Splatter tests; All ammunition must be splatter tested to ensure safety to the satisfaction of the HSO. Blank ammo should be tested in advance if a splatter test cannot be accomplished at the location before the performance takes place by team SO's. This is a required standard practice before any blank ammunition can be used for any performance, private party/gathering/competition.

3. Safety Meeting; The attendance of the safety meeting is necessary for all team members. Any team member not using a weapon/knife during a show does not have to attend a safety meeting. Anyone that is going to carry a weapon/knife **MUST** be in attendance at the safety meeting. The HSO may suspend this rule based on his determination the teams members absence was necessary, such as a medical emergency or situation out of control of the team member. It will be placed in the safety area.

Motion made and carried with 14-1 (the National Safety Officer made the recommendation to the secretary/National Director by e-mail to keep this together in addition to and as part of rule #4 in the RGA Safety Rules so there would be no

mistakes in knowing what is expected before each and every event/gathering/show. This is about the HSO responsibilities and the mandatory safety meeting and should not be separated.)

Vote

Jim Miller	Yes
Jim Hoffman	Yes
Don Swain	Yes
Susie Swain	Yes
Lee Michaels	Yes
Jeff McIntosh	Yes
David Chastain	Yes
Kip turner	Yes
Larry Putnam	Yes
Jeff Cashion	No
Barbara Chatam	Yes
Matt Woehrle	Yes
Gary Burden	Yes
Dwayne Hagemeyer	Yes
Scott Trammel	Yes

8. Props: Add wording to the existing Props category in competition rules and guidelines as a new rule #4:

#4. Realistically groups cannot be expected to bring out museum quality period correct items to be abused and potentially damaged during a performance, so many props are going to have to be homemade or modified items. Every effort should be made to assure the prop is a reasonable facsimile of the item it is intended to replicate. This does not mean that modern items should be acceptable representations of earlier models that did exist either. A telephone should look like a period correct telephone, a broom like a period correct broom, etc... Judges can however be critical of items that are too distracting or are obviously not representative of the item being simulated. A gold coin even if it is a metal slug should at least be gold in color, badges should be made out of nickel or brass or at least look like they are, if a pocket watch looks like a pocket watch there should be no real concern about the inner mechanics, and wooden buckets or boxes should be made out of wood. Any and all props should look believable at a minimum distance of 10 feet. Judges should not question or deduct points for props if they meet the above requirements.

Motion made and seconded Vote was 15-0

Vote:

Jim Miller	Yes
Jim Hoffman	Yes
Don Swain	Yes
Susie Swain	Yes
Lee Michaels	Yes
Jeff McIntosh	Yes
David Chastain	Yes
Kip turner	Yes
Larry Putnam	Yes
Jeff Cashion	Yes
Barbara Chatam	Yes
Matt Woehrle	Yes
Gary Burden	Yes
Dwayne Hagemeyer	Yes
Scott Trammel	Yes

9. Use of Music in Skit or Historical Portrayal: (We do not have the exact wording as it was lost in the notes but this is very close to what was agreed upon.) It is permissible to use music but as our mission statement and the bylaws require the music should be authentic, pertain to the correct time period, and be used appropriately as well as judged accordingly in a competitive environment. Any and all appropriate music and/or sound effects for a performance can be either live or recorded, but keep in mind volume levels so vocals are not drowned out.

Motion made; Music and sound effects may be used, but must be period correct and appropriate for the story line. Remember if you use music you will be judged on the usage.

Motion made and seconded Vote was 15-0

Vote:

Jim Miller	Yes
Jim Hoffman	Yes
Don Swain	Yes
Susie Swain	Yes
Lee Michaels	Yes
Jeff McIntosh	Yes
David Chastain	Yes
Kip turner	Yes
Larry Putnam	Yes
Jeff Cashion	Yes
Barbara Chatam	Yes
Matt Woehrle	Yes
Gary Burden	Yes

Dwayne Hagemeyer Yes
Scott Trammel Yes

10. Reimbursement for judges and head safety officer:

(Again we do not have the exact wording on this issue but this is the logistics of what was discussed) Judges should be compensated for their mileage to the event (based on MapQuest), and rooms. The mileage should be determined with the prevailing gas mileage cost. It is the responsibility of the event coordinator and the individual judges to work out the details of their agreement in a written contract so both parties are fully aware of their agreement prior to the event taking place. Some judges may not need to be compensated if they are already from the local area, **already attending the event and needed for a fill in spot**, or has made alternative arrangements. In any case all agreements must be accomplished in advance to eliminate any misunderstandings.

Motion made; RGA sanctioned and funded competitions will have a prior agreement for hotel and/or mileage with all judges and safety officers, not competing, between the event organizer and these judges and safety officers.

Motion made and seconded Vote was 13-2

Vote:

Jim Miller	Yes
Jim Hoffman	No
Don Swain	Yes
Susie Swain	Yes
Lee Michaels	Yes
Jeff McIntosh	Yes
David Chastain	Yes
Kip turner	Yes
Larry Putnam	No
Jeff Cashion	Yes
Barbara Chatam	Yes
Matt Woehrl	Yes
Gary Burden	Yes
Dwayne Hagemeyer	Yes
Scott Trammel	Yes

12. Junior Re-enactor classes:

The wording in the Jr. Reenactment Guidelines that is unclear is:

“upon completion of all requirements, can carry and use a gun in performances.”

This seems to say that they can not use a gun until they have completed all requirements, but to complete all requirements, they must use a gun.

Maybe just something as simple as 'Upon completion of all requirements (as outlined in Junior Reenactor Application), may carry and use a gun in performances without further special requirements"', to finish their qualification requirements.

The motion was made to change the wording in the Jr. Reenactment Guidelines that read ""upon completion of all requirements, can carry and use a gun in performances." to be changed to '**Upon completion of all requirements as outlined in Junior Reenactor Application may carry and use a gun in performances without further special requirements, to finish their qualification requirements.**' (this allows the HSO/SSO who signs them off to observe them to complete training requirements)

Motion made and seconded Vote was 13-0 (2 members had to leave the meeting. A quorum was maintained)

Vote:

Jim Miller	Yes
Jim Hoffman	Yes
Don Swain	Yes
Susie Swain	Yes
Lee Michaels	Not Present
Jeff McIntosh	Yes
David Chastain	Yes
Kip turner	Yes
Larry Putnam	Yes
Jeff Cashion	Yes
Barbara Chatam	Abstain
Matt Woehrl	Yes
Gary Burden	Yes
Dwayne Hagemeyer	Yes
Scott Trammel	Not Present

13. Judges classes and handbook were suggested to help make judging more consistent was proposed;

(this was read by David at the meeting) Judges classes, handbooks and funding to see to it each major state has a class for judges when the handbook is complete. Also we need a competent willing officer from each state to officially be part of creating the judges handbook, from what has been organized so far. **Development is ongoing.**

Motion made and seconded Vote was 11-1-1 (2 members had left. There was 1 abstention).

Vote:

Jim Miller	Yes
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Jim Hoffman	Yes
Don Swain	Yes
Susie Swain	Yes
Lee Michaels	Not Present
Jeff McIntosh	Yes
David Chastain	Yes
Kip turner	Yes
Larry Putnam	Yes
Jeff Cashion	Yes
Barbara Chatam	Abstain
Matt Woehrl	No
Gary Burden	Yes
Dwayne Hagemeyer	Yes
Scott Trammel	Not Present

14. #11. (Texas, California, Kansas...) (Proposal made) A. Re-title the Living History Performance category, because a Living History isn't a performance at all, but an actual glimpse into history, as in an encampment, or a display of some sort of craft/craftsman work. Sewing on a 19th century sewing machine, blacksmithing, plowing a field with a mule/ox, manning a Faro table, etc... all Living History. I'm not sure what the performances should be called other than something like, "19th Century Character Renditions/Portrayals".

(action taken) **Change the name of "Living History" performances in Competition** to a more appropriate terminology, and the agreeable suggestion was to call it "Historical Portrayal". The definition already used in the RGA rules and guidelines pertaining to the old term "Living History" will still be in use under the new title of "Historical Portrayals" identifying performances of historical events, character portrayals, as well as composite characters that could have lived in the 19th century. "Living History" will still be in use but it will only apply itself to encampments and portrayals of life and skills, artisan crafts in those types of display settings.

The Motion was made to change Term for performance "Living History" to now be called "Historical Portrayal" Category under RGA Competitions in the rules and guidelines.

Motion made and seconded Vote was 11-2 (2 members had left. Quorum was still maintained)

Vote:

Jim Miller	Yes
Jim Hoffman	Yes
Don Swain	Yes
Susie Swain	Yes

Lee Michaels	Not Present
Jeff McIntosh	Yes
David Chastain	Yes
Kip turner	Yes
Larry Putnam	Yes
Jeff Cashion	Yes
Barbara Chatam	No
Matt Woehrl	No
Gary Burden	Yes
Dwayne Hagemeyer	Yes
Scott Trammel	Not Present

B. Clarification of the current definition;

An RGA “Historical Portrayals” (was Living History) performance is a first person portrayal of an actual or composite character from the time-period of 1800 to 1900. The presentation may be done by a single person or may involve two or more people. The purpose of “Historical Portrayals” (was Living History) is to educate through entertainment. Accuracy is paramount, whether the script is of comedic or dramatic nature.

The issue being with the word composite (made up of various parts or elements), as in a fictional character made up of several different individuals that actual lived or could have lived in the 19th century. Like the Mel Gibson character in the ‘Patriot’ was made up of several individuals that did live during the revolutionary war era, not like a character made up of Mighty Mouse, Michael Jackson, and Robin Williams dressed in cowboy clothes, acting out a scene from “Ghost Whisperer” or the “Twilight Zone” meets the “Fireside Theater”.

The Board discussed the relevance of Composite Characters and agreed the word was self-explanatory. No agreement could be reached for changing the definition already in place so no motions were made.

No Motion made.

15. Originally a proposal was made to add the definition to the gunfight Reenactment Category to end the debate about gunfights in the Gunfight category. This is the definition that was proposed;

Shows in the gunfighters competition should be based on or about gunplay/gunfighters’/a shooting/a shootout or at minimum the incidents involved in leading up to or the aftermath of the event. Technically gunfire is not mandatory and is appreciated in all performances but there is no required number of shots.

After a lengthy discussion it became evident that this was not a general consensus of the board, after no official vote went forward, it was requested and a motion was made to change the title of the **“Gunfighters Reenactment Competition”** to a more generic term that gives groups more freedom in their performances, and finally bring the debate on gunfights to an end. The new title, **“Old West Performance”** was suggested to replace the term gunfighters in the competition category of the RGA rules and guidelines on competitions, bearing in mind that these competitions will continue to allow presentations (comedy/drama) of actual events or fictitious stories that are based on historical situations that did or could have happened according to the rules and guidelines already in place. This decision was made to be instituted in the RGA rules and guidelines on the website only, and at no time has or will RGA try to dictate to a location what they can or will call their events.

Motion was made and seconded Vote was 13-0 (2 members had left.)

Vote:

Jim Miller	Yes
Jim Hoffman	Yes
Don Swain	Yes
Susie Swain	Yes
Lee Michaels	Not Present
Jeff McIntosh	Yes
David Chastain	Yes
Kip turner	Yes
Larry Putnam	Yes
Jeff Cashion	Yes
Barbara Chatam	Yes
Matt Woehrle	Yes
Gary Burden	Yes
Dwayne Hagemeyer	Yes
Scott Trammel	Not Present

16. Score sheets for all venues: Changes were suggested and various officers are working on them to ensure fairness and equality to all characters.

No need for motion or vote.

Motion was made and seconded for meeting to adjourn. All were in favor.