

Communiqué to Members

SGM Proposals

There are two matters relating to the SGM on 17 February which need to be communicated to clubs:

1. In response to the SGM proposals several clubs and individuals have indicated that if the present club subscription proceeds as currently proposed some individual NAW members who are also club members may resign their NAW membership. The possibility of offering some form of discount to individuals was previously considered by the NAW Committee but was considered to be a potential administrative nightmare. The Committee could not come up with a satisfactory and workable means of dealing with the proposal administratively, especially as many clubs decline to provide their membership lists to the NAW [primarily for privacy reasons]. We have now reconsidered that issue and will propose an amendment to the SGM that NAW members who are members of NAW member clubs should get a discount on their membership fee equivalent to the amount the club pays per member [i.e. have their subscription reduced from \$45 to \$40]. This will involve membership forms having provision for the club to confirm that the new or re-subscribing member is a current financial member of a NAW member club, with the form being counter-signed by their club secretary, treasurer or president to confirm their club membership, in which case they will get a discount to \$40. There may be other possibilities, and if anyone has suggestions please email me. While what is now proposed may be a little bit of a hassle, it resolves the problem of individuals apparently paying twice for membership, avoids club privacy concerns, and is administratively simple. Motion 6 would then be amended to read [the change is highlighted]:

That for the 2006-2007 year and until further resolution of a General Meeting, subscriptions be \$45 for individual members reducible to \$40 if the individual is a member of an NAW member club, \$60 for New Zealand business members, \$70 for overseas members, and for clubs \$5 per club member at 31 March (with a minimum of \$50).

2. Another issue has been drawn to my attention, relating to proxies. Rules 7.8 and 8.9 are proposed to be deleted, and at present read “7.8 Proxies: At any Annual General Meeting a member entitled to vote may vote by proxy prepared in writing and delivered to the Secretary at least seven days prior to the date of such a meeting,” and “8.9 Proxies: A member entitled to vote may vote by proxy prepared in writing and delivered to the Secretary at least three days prior to the date set for such a meeting.” When drafting he proposed changes I had intended to include a replacement for Rules 7.8 and 8.9 in Rule 10.1, but omitted to include this in Rule 10.1(b). Accordingly I will propose at the SGM that the new Rule 10.1(b) be amended to read as follows [the change is highlighted]:

A financial and Honorary Life Member shall be entitled to vote by written proxy in favour of another financial Member present at a Meeting delivered to the Secretary not less than three days prior to the time set for the Meeting, but no other proxy voting shall be permitted.

I also note that I've had some feedback from clubs and individual members about the communications that are only sent to clubs. I'm sorry that the communiqués I've sent out have not gone to all members but there are a number of reasons for this:

- Within 24 hours of sending out my message to clubs on 4 December Xtra told me I had exceeded my broadband allocation for the month of December [i.e. what I pay for, and therefore I would pay for the excess that month]. Even if all members were on email [and they are not], it would be expensive to email everyone.
- Mailing to every member would cost over \$1 per member per mailing [copying, envelope and postage], or for four times a year [i.e. after 3 Committee meetings and the AGM] over \$3,000. That is neither economic nor worth it.
- We do communicate directly to members – through *Creative Wood*, by notice of general meetings, and more recently for those with Internet access through the website. Apart from the website, those methods lack immediacy.
- The changes being considered to our rules arguably impact most on our club members and in turn on their members. Therefore, I think club members are entitled to know directly what is proposed rather than have rumours and speculation circulating.
- If we are to increase our membership, the most obvious means of doing so is to try and get club members who do not belong to the NAW to join in their own right. The best means of selling the benefits is through their clubs. I appreciate that not all clubs will or do pass messages on, but I feel we have to keep on trying. When I joined the Committee of my Guild we heard nothing from the NAW Committee apart from formal notices. I was not impressed. I am trying to convey a new message of service, accountability and openness. Eventually I hope that will make a difference.

All that having been said, I am very conscious that we have a sizeable proportion of our membership who do not belong to clubs. Unfortunately, apart from the economic realities of the cost of communicating with all members, we simply do not know whether an individual member also belongs to a club or clubs. If members regularly check the NAW website, we are trying to put on it information of current interest to members. In future we will look at updating our email addresses for members, but I know from past experience of trying to use that information that it is not all accurate, possibly because people's writing could not be read, possibly because of errors in data entry, and possibly because members had changed their email addresses.

I hope you and your members have a great year of woodworking.

Mark von Dadelszen
NAW President