

ATTACHMENT A

2023 95th PRE-BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FRA NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NUGGET CASINO RESORT
SPARKS, NEVADA

National President (NP) James E. Robbins, Jr. requested the Master-at-arms invite attendees in and closed the doors. The NP called the meeting to order at 1300 on Monday, September 25, 2023, citing Section 802(k), C&BL, FRA as the authority for the meeting. Following, was the National Chaplain Bailey's Prayer and the opening of the Bible, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

National Executive Director Phillip Reid called the roll, and the following were present:

NP James E. Robbins, Jr., West Jacksonville Br 126; NVP John S. Handzuk, West Jacksonville Br 126; NED Phillip Reid, Navy Department Br 181; JrPNP James W. Campbell, Chesapeake Branch 040; RPNE/Neng Neil I. Ross, Buffalo Br 023; RPEC Gabriel Falu, Kempsville Br 099; RPSE Jerry Anger, Birmingham Br 112; RPNC Marcia L. Cunningham, Milwaukee Br 014; RPSC Emmett H. Smith, Shreveport/Bossier Br 098; RPSW Chris Chapman, Imperial Br 289; RPWC Joe Nash, Silver Dollar Br 192: and RPNW Rex L. Faubion, Mt. Rainier Br 104.

The National President declares a quorum present in compliance with Section 802(l), C&BL, FRA.

The NP then introduced National Parliamentarian PRPNC Marty J. Posekany, Wolverine Br 298 and Nation Chaplain Laurie A. Bailey, Low County Br 269.

Also, present and recognized by NP Robbins for all or part of the proceedings were the following FRA members:

Shipmates: PNP George E. Hyland, PNP Robert G. Beese, PNP Virgil P. Courneya, PRPEC Donald A. Hoover, PRPEC\NC Paul Gunther, PRPEC Paul A. Phelps, PRPEC Randy Phillips, PRPEC Chris Murry, PRPNE\NEng Joyce M. Harris, PRPNC Norman G. Combs, PRPSW Rogelio A. Bacud, PRPSW Donald L. Kelly, PRPWC\NC Patrick H. LeClaire, RPWC William L. Hansel, PRPWC Charles R. McIntyre, PRPWC Richard J. Fetro, PRPWC Peter J. McNamara, PRPNW Pete Lazzaretti, PRPSC Cathleen U. Gruetzner, PRPSC Gus Hermes, PRPNC Maria Behme, Shipmate Jeff Hateliff, Br 24 President Patrick Guibao, ECRVP Valerie Toulotte, Shipmate Cynthia R. Banks.

NP Robbins introduced the National Headquarters staff members present: Kimberly Afolabi,

Director, Administration & Facility; Shipmate Christina Hitchcock, Director, Membership Development; Shipmate Theo Lawson, Assistant Director, Legislative Programs, and Shipmate John R. Davis, Legislative Programs.

National Parliamentarian Posekany recited Section 802(m), C&BL, FRA and informed all present of the procedures for a National Board business meeting.

NP indicated that the meeting was being electronically recorded for the purpose of minutes taking and future meetings will include approval of previous meeting minutes.

The NBOD reviewed the minutes from the 2023 Mid-Year NBOD meeting. The JrPNP noted that NED Chris Slawinski had tabled a conversation regarding opening membership in FRA to officers. A discussion ensued around what was done by headquarters with two C&BL resolutions to change Article 2, Section 202; and Article 3 Section 301. NED informed the NBOD that Article 2, Section 202 C&BL resolution was included in the 2023 National Convention Delegate Kit, but Article 3, Section 301 C&BL resolution had not been reviewed. The JrPNP told the NBOD that he had a copy of Section 302 C&BL resolution and would provide a copy once a break was allowed. JrPNP provided the NBOD with a copy of the missing resolution. It was decided to discuss both resolutions under New Business. The 2023 Mi-Year minutes were approved unanimously and assigned NBR 27-23.

The NED provided the NBOD with a listing of all previous NBR's that the NBOD had approved since the 2022 FRA Post-Convention NBOD meeting. There had been a total of 26 NBR's approved by the NBOD.

Under "Unfinished Business" NED Reid provided the NBOD with updates on the following:

- a) Liquor License Letter related to Branch 51 sent to the Florida Department of Revenue – The letter had been prepared and sent but no response was received.
- b) 2020 and 2021 Audit Update – NED Reid assured the NBOD that both audits were well on their way and he promised to have both completed prior to the end of 2023. He described the process as much more arduous since the covid-19 pandemic and auditors requesting all backup electronically vs. visiting in person.
- c) Provided the NBOD with an update on the possible disposition of FRA museum artifacts, library books and weight equipment (that had been donated to FRA). NED Reid felt that with extended time at hand to vacate the building that good homes would be found for all items.
- d) NED provided an update of a conversation with FRA legal counsel noting that he had found nothing in the charter that would prevent the association from having officers as members.

RPEC Falu provide updates on Branch 259 Fayetteville NC. No annual officer reports had been received in 2022 nor 2023 year-to-date. RPEC Falu informed the NBOD that several attempts had been made to resolve conditions that had led to their prior suspension and made a motion to revoke the Charter of Branch 259 for noncompliance with FRA C&BL Articles. Jr.PNP Campbell added that he had spoken to a member of the branch and he had been told that intended

to turn in their charter (which has yet to happen). The motion to revoke was made by RPEC Falu and seconded by Jr. PNP Campbell. The NBOD voted unanimously in the affirmative for NBR 28-23

RPSE Anger provided an update on Branch 256 since the suspension of their charter. Several attempts were made to contact Branch members to no avail. RPSE Anger moved to revoke the charter of Branch 256 for noncompliance with FRA C&BL. The motion was seconded by NVP Handzuk and unanimously approved by the NBOD and assigned NBR 29-23.

RPNW Faubion reported to the NBOD that Branch 342, Anchorage AK had been struggling for some time with a majority of its members living in the lower 48 states. He expects Branch 342 to relinquish their charter sometime in the future as their membership was below 25 individuals.

Under New Business NVP Handzuk led to discussion on how FRA and its leaders must do a better job of communicating with members. He noted that it was imperative that HQ and the leadership of FRA make a concerted effort to better communicate with members.

NED Reid informed the NBOD of Kim Afolabi's promotion to Director of Administration and Facilities. He praised her work in helping prepare the 2023 National Convention. NED Reid informed the NBOD that the search was on for a new Finance Officer (no qualified candidates had been received), and a new editor of FRAToday due to the retirement of the current editor. Additionally, he announced that the Director of Legislative Programs was relocating outside the Washington DC area and that given the in-depth knowledge that he had accumulated that he planned on maintaining him in the position of DLP for now. The NED informed the NBOD that John Davis would be making multiple trips to Washington DC throughout the year at no cost to FRA. He also informed the NBOD that he and the assistant Director of Legislative programs would be available to interact with congressmen on a daily basis while the DLP would continue providing Newsbytes and "On and off the Hill".

The NED gave an update on the PCI project (member stories collection) and said that the work done by PCI had gone a long way to cleaning up the FRA online member database.

The JrPNP provided the NBOD with an update on locations that are under consideration for the relocation of the FRA HQ staff once the sale of the building has been completed. He told the audience that FRA intended to enter into a nine-month leaseback with the purchaser of the building which would provide FRA more time to look at potential spaces.

RPNE/NEng Ross informed the NBOD that several of the branches in his region had not identified the required five officers on their branch reports but he was working with them to correct the oversight. He pointed out that Branch 42 did not have a branch secretary and that the region was working on bringing them into compliance.

RPEC Falu let the NBOD that Branch 123, Morganton, NC had not provided an Annual Officer Report and attempts had been made to reach out to former branch members but to no avail. RPEC Falu recommended suspending the branch due to noncompliance with C&BL with the

hope of reorganizing the branch within a year's time. It was suggested that he collect additional evidence of outreach attempts such as certified mail receipts or copies of sent emails prior to suspending the branch.

RPEC Falu informed the NBOD that Branch 04 was ready to petition for being an active branch and recommended reinstatement for the Branch. NBR 30-23 was approved unanimously by the NBOD to reinstate Branch 04.

RPSE Anger informed the NBOD that the region was working with Branch 86 to identify a 5th director. He also said that two regional bylaw changes had been sent to the Parliamentarian for consideration by the NBOD.

RPNC Cunningham reported that no officer report had been received from Branch 145 Lincoln NE and that there was a possible merger in the works with Branch 276. She also reported that Branch 223 had submitted a letter through the chain of command indicating their desire to merge with Branch 161. The NBOD approved the merger unanimously – NBR-31-23. RPNC said that there could be a possible merger between Branch 53 with Branch 12, or they might turn in their charter.

RPSC Smith reported that Branches 222, 311, and 334 would be getting additionally attention so that they have five officers and board members.

RPSW Chapman reported that Branch 62 only had four officers and directors and that the region would work with them on finding the fifth officer.

RPNW Faubion said there had been changes to the NW Region C&BL and Standing Rules which had be forwarded to the National Parliamentarian for review.

Branch 310 Silverdale WA was seeking NBOD approval to merge with Branch 029 Bremerton WA. The NBOD approved unanimously (NBR-32-23) to allow the merger. Branch 097 Whidbey Island is still recovering from a fire that shut them down. Volunteers are moving forward with rebuilding. Branches in Guam and Philippines continue to have internet connectivity problems due to storms and regional issues. The 2024 Northwest Region Convention is scheduled for September 6-8 at the Clover Island Inn in Kennewick, WA.

Parliamentarian Posekany reported receiving the following regional changes in bylaws and/or standing rules and felt that they were credible and forwarded them to the NBOD for its consideration and approval:

- Southeast Region (NBR 33-23)
- South Central Region (NBR 34-23)
- West Coast Region (NBR 35-23)
- Northwest Region (NBR 36-23)
- East Coast Region (NBR 37-23)

No regional changes were received from North Central, NE/Neng, nor Southwest Regions.

The NBOD continued the discussion related to the two earlier resolutions relating to allowing officers to be members of the FRA. The NBOD approved both as NBR's: Article 3, Section 301 to read "all" instead of "enlisted" (38-23); and Article 2, Section 201 to read "all" instead of "enlisted" (39-23).

Under "Good of the Order, RPNE/Neng Ross gave a farewell speech and RPWC Nash echoed what the NVP had spoken about earlier: the importance of good communications.

PNP George Hyland informed the board that although it had passed NBR's 38-23 and 39-23, both were actually changes in the FRA C&BL would have to be taken up during the Convention by the Constitution and By Laws Committee and then ratified by the delegates before being enacted.

The NP adjourned the meeting at 15:46 PDT.