**Southern Forest Service Retirees Association**

**Full Board Meeting**

**January 30, 2023**

**3:30 - 5:00 pm**

All Officers, Director’s, & Appointees were invited to attend. The Full Board and Voting Members consist of the Officers (**President** - Tom Darden, **Vice-President** – Tim Mersmann, **Treasurer** - Paul Arndt, and **Secretary** – vacant) and **Directors** (Malcolm Gramley, Sonny Cudabac, and Marisue Hilliard). All voting members were present with the exception of Marisue Hilliard. David Meriwether served the role of Parliamentarian using Roberts Rules of Order and Thurman Harp as Meeting Recorder.

**Background:** The Association has over the past year completed extensive outreach and discussions, both pro and con, concerning the possibility of changing the name of the Association Newsletter, “The Dixie Ranger.”

**Purpose:** SFSRA President Tom Darden presented the following set of proposals to the Full SFSRA Board regarding changing the name of the *The Dixie Ranger Newsletter*. The Full Board discussed, considered amendments, and decided whether to approve each proposal. The Proposals were as follows:

**Proposal A:** *The name of the newsletter of the Southern Forest Service Retirees Association will change from “The Dixie Ranger” to “The SFSRA Newsletter” effective for the issue following the issue in which announcement is made of a final decision to change the name of the newsletter. The name “The SFSRA Newsletter” will remain indefinitely or until an alternative name is selected through a future process to be determined.*

**Proposal B:** *Current Directors are petitioned by the full Board to amend or rescind the Director’s Policy of July 5, 2022, to explicitly allow the decision in Proposal A, if approved, to be made by the Board without a member vote, and that processes for future name changes as addressed by this policy be determined on a case-by-case basis through a vote by the full Board.*

**Proposal C:** *As soon as possible following announcement of a final decision to change the name of the Association newsletter, the Board will develop and implement a process for engaging Association members in selection of a new name that is broadly supported by Association members.*

**Meeting Details and Results:** President Tom Darden called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. Tom briefly discussed the background, issues, and the Association efforts regarding a possible name change of “The Dixie Ranger Newsletter.” Tom discussed the three proposals, how we would address the proposals, David Meriwether’s role as Parliamentarian and Thurman Harp as Meeting Recorder. The meeting was video recorded by Tim Mersmann, who was the Zoom host. Next, Tom Darden turned the meeting over to David Meriwether.

**Results of Proposal A:**

Tim Mersmann presented Proposal A as a motion and Tom Darden seconded the motion. Discussion began with Tim Mersmann describing the purpose and intent of the name change proposal and bringing everyone up-to-date and going through the Associations efforts over the last year regarding our members feelings regarding changing the “name.” In that discussion Tim indicated that we heard from 41 members and that comments ranged all the way from not really caring, to wanting the name changed, to wanting no change; but the survey resulted in about a 2 to 1 comment in favor of changing the name. Further discussion about all aspects of changing the name came from Paul Arndt, Sonny Cudabac, Tom Darden, Malcolm Gramley, Thurman Harp, Tim Mersmann, Silvia Molina, and Alan Pigg.

The results of the discussion was a **Proposed Amendment to Proposal A** to fully spell out the acronym SFSRA, making Proposal A read [… change from “The Dixie Ranger” to “The Southern Forest Service Retirees Association Newsletter”]. Tom Darden made the motion of the amendment and it was seconded by Tim Mersmann. David Meriwether called a voice vote which was not unanimous therefore a roll call vote was performed. Results of all present Voting Members are as follows:

**Voter** **Yes** **No**

Tom Darden **X**

Tim Mersmann **X**

Paul Arndt **X**

Sonny Cudabac **Abstained; which has an effect of a No vote.**

Malcolm Gramley **X**

**Proposed Amendment to Proposal a failed by a 3 to 2 vote.**

After the Proposed Amendment to Proposal A failed, David Meriwether called for a voice vote on an un-amended Proposal A. The voice vote was not unanimous therefore a roll call vote was performed. Results of all present Voting Members are as follows:

**Voter** **Yes** **No**

Tom Darden **X**

Tim Mersmann **X**

Paul Arndt **X**

Sonny Cudabac  **X**

Malcolm Gramley **X**

**Proposal A passed by a 4 to 1 vote.**

**Results of Proposal B:**

Tom Darden described in detail what Proposal B is and followed by offering up Proposal B as a motion; Tim Mersmann seconded the motion. Much discussion followed primarily about the Director’s July 5, 2022 policy requiring any name change of the SFSRA Newsletter be 1) approved by the Board of Directors and 2) approved by a majority (50% plus one) of those SFSRA Members whose dues are current and voted on the proposal. Tim Mersmann pointed out that a member vote has the potential to increase divisiveness of the issue among members. In addition, it would be extremely difficult to implement a fair and equally accessible vote that would be a 50% plus one given the Association has no such procedure in place. The discussion came to a close and a vote was made after it was pointed out that “Proposal B” in essence was a petition by the Full Board to the Director’s to amend or rescind their July 5, 2022 policy letter and depending on how the Director’s responded to the petition, would then affect how the now passed Proposal A would

be implemented.

David Meriwether called a voice vote which was not unanimous therefore a roll call vote was performed. Results of all present Voting Members are as follows:

**Voter** **Yes** **No**

Tom Darden **X**

Tim Mersmann **X**

Paul Arndt **X**

Sonny Cudabac  **X**

Malcolm Gramley **X**

**Proposal B passed by a 3 to 2 vote.**

**Status of Proposal C and Closing of the Meeting:**

As the meeting was drawing to a close, Tim stated that he felt we should table the final proposal. Technically, without a motion ever having been made on Proposal C, there was nothing to be tabled. David Meriwether then commented that since that was the case for Proposal C and due to the fact that we were out of time for the meeting, he considered Tim's motion was to adjourn the meeting which Paul Arndt seconded. At this point, David Meriwether then called for a voice vote to conclude the business portion of the meeting and it was unanimous. David then turned control of the meeting back over to Tom. Tom made some closing comments, thanked everyone, and indicated that we would await the consideration of the Directors on the petition of the Full Board of Directors before calling for another meeting to complete decisions about the naming of the newsletter. During this period, Sonny said he expected the Directors to get together and act quickly on the petition. Tom Darden adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.