VATSIM Board of Governors
Q1 2015 Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2015 2000z

Open Meeting, Record Attendance and Proxies

Old Business
· Meet New VATGOV14 - Kyle 2010z-2015z

New Business

· Membership Proposal – Daniel/Kieran 2015z-2025z
· Supervisor Dept Report - Gunnar 2025z-2035z
· PC Pilot Partnership - Justin 2035z-2050z
· Regions Report - Peter 2050z-2105z
· VA/VSOA Report - Roger 2105z-2115z
· Questions from Members - All 2115z-2125z
· Close meeting - Steven 2130z

Attendees:

       Steven Cullen (SC)

       Norman Blackburn (NB)

       Peter Nielsen (PN)

       Kyle Ramsey (KR)

       Roger Curtiss (RC)

       Luca Benelli (LB)

       Justin Friedland (JF)

       Gunnar Lindahl (GL)

       Kieran Hardern (KH)

       Daniel Gomes (DG)

       Divya Patel (DP)

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 2007z by KR and attendance taken.

KR welcomed DP to his first meeting and as new members of the Board of Governors and congratulated him on his selection. DP replied he was happy to be on board and gave an update on his progress getting into the office and making his plans to continue the work started by others before him.

KR recorded there were three BoG votes since the Quarter 4 2014 BoG meeting:

- Minutes for the Q4 2014 BoG meeting were approved unanimously 8-0
- Amendment to CoC A(11) requested by the EC was defeated 0-7. BoG responded that current language covers the specific situations the proposed language attempts to cover.
- Divya Patel was elected to serve as VP Pilot Training, 9-1

Membership Proposal – DG/KH

- DG reported he has added staff specifically to handle duplicate membership IDs due to the high workload and the time it takes from answering other membership requests and problems.
- He and KH discussed opportunities to provide additional tools to help reduce the workload of these staff for this task. The BoG discussed various possible membership tools that could be employed.
  - o Vote requested to allow DG to proceed, seconded by NB, motion passed 10-0. They will report back by end of June 2015 with a firmer proposal.

Supervisor Department Report – GL

- GL reports a few coverage issues, goal is to have at least one VATSIM supervisor on line at all times. He continues to bring on board new supervisors. There are some issues with current supervisors not meeting their online time commitments, and he will have conversations with them to understand their situations.
- Supervisor Coverage Tool will be very helpful to track when we have coverage and where to aid in recruiting and staffing effectively around the clock.
- Question about how the tool is being used, GL replied it helps see where gaps in coverage are but also helps to better understand how our requirements hit our supervisors in their real world and virtual world lives to achieve a good balance so we hang on to good supervisors, and to also help tune the intake process to better screen candidates to meet the requirements we need to run VATSIM's supervisor department and provide those services.

PC Pilot Partnership – JF

- KR commented on Motherboard article that was recently published and a link posted in the forums. JF remarked the writer was very favorable to VATSIM in the article.
- PC Pilot wants to do some fly in's in the USA in conjunction with their anniversary issue. More details to follow.
- FlightSimCon 2015 will have two VATSIM related booths there, BOSTON and NY ARTCC groups will have displays and demonstrations of ATC and flying together. DP and JF plan to attend. There was no cost to anyone at VATSIM beyond personal travel and meals. Dates are June 13/14, 2015 in New England Air Museum outside of Hartford, Conn.
- JF making a tri-fold brochure for this event but it will be general in nature and members will be able to download this and use it at events worldwide.

VA/VSOA Report – RC

- New policy manual approved previously are now posted on the web site.

- Added a few new sections such as tips on how to start a VA.

- VA Partners event in Asia in June 2015 is in the works.

- VSOA event in conjunction with the RAAF in June 2015.

- Starting a new program, VAA, VA Associates, as an incubator for VAs that want a helping hand to form and achieve VA Partner status. They would be displayed on the Partners web site. They are assigned a mentor within the dept who monitors their progress, with set goals to achieve milestones within reasonable timeframes to achieve full VA Partner status.

- KH asks about the perks of membership yet they aren't members and does that take away from the relationships with existing partners. These VAA groups can't participate in events like mentioned previously and it is a time limited program, so they get to full status or they don't and leave the program.

Admins Not Responding to Wallops – GL

- Reports when wallops came in when SUPs online at the time were either buried with other cases or the nature of the call was serious, i.e., racial remarks.

- There is no requirement that Admins take wallop calls, but there has long been an unwritten agreement that if you are logged in as an Admin and your help is needed, you do respond when and as appropriate. This was begun from questions form SUPs to GL.

- NB remarks that we have observed this agreement for years and while Admins should never try to take over from a SUP in ordinary circumstances if asked for help or if you see they are all busy, or the nature of the call is such that an Admin is the more appropriate person to handle the call, then we should. NB also notes the Founders hold the same rating but we cannot dictate to them on this topic.

- KH notes if you aren't going to respond when needed, he doesn't think it appropriate to log in with the Admin rating and they should use an alternative rating to which they are qualified to use (controller or pilot).

- KR notes new members with the Admin rating should make sure to get training from GL on how the SUP world works, how calls are made, how evidence is collected, responsibilities if you suspend, etc. Discussion resulted in GL agreeing to train any new BoG members as a part of on-boarding, and the BoG agreeing this is an expectation of BoG members.

- The team agreed the Admin logged on is not there to push a SUP out of the way or do their job for them, but to support them if they need help and be sensitive if you see them getting buried in calls and jump in to help and support them taking common calls.

Regions Report – PN

- Discussion on GRP in today's meeting with agreement that changes to how Majors are used today could be improved.

Entered Executive Session 2051z

SC joined meeting at 2052z

JF left the meeting at 2123z, proxy to KR

RC left meeting at 2135z, proxy to KR

Exit Executive Session at 2138z

NB left meeting at 2141z, proxy to KH

President Time – SC

- Wants to set up some meetings with region and division staffs to see what they are concerned about.
- KH asks to send out notices to BoG when he schedules these and we will try to attend.

Other Business

- KH wants to clean up the forums; old stickies and unused forums.
    - SC asks to keep significant events like MITRE maybe as read only
    - KH suggests an archive, SC agrees that would work. W14 is another example where the archive preserves the information without it being in the main scan of members.

Into Executive session 2145z

Out of Executive Session 2148z

Motion to close meeting, seconded by GL, motion carried. Meeting closed at 2149z.