

EESF Holds the 2007 Annual Meeting

March 23, 2007

Mobile, AL – The Elevator Escalator Safety Foundation (EESF) held its 2007 Annual Meeting February 8 and 9 in Mobile, Alabama. The Board of Regents met to review the previous year's results and discuss the plans for 2007 on the 8th. On the second day the Board and staff reported to the EESF membership and industry representatives.



Doug Witham (GAL/Hollister Whitney) makes a report to the Board of Regents at the 2007 EESF Annual Meeting.

EESF Chairman Doug Witham (GAL/Hollister Whitney), reported that EESF had a great year and is on track for an even better 2007. He summed up the year by saying, “Our financial position is the best ever. All of the original industry sponsors, NAEC, NEII, NAESAI and Elevator World have increased their level of support, and we have continued to broaden the type of grass roots backing that was always thought possible. I believe that Foundation supporters feel the progress, see the results, and have a renewed confidence in the direction we have taken.”

EESF Treasurer, Ricia Hendrick explained that the Foundation is in solid financial shape and that \$0.71 of every dollar contributed was spent on EESF programs and that there was a surplus of \$38,053 from 2006. The Board decided to invest the surplus into a short term CD until the next meeting where the Board will determine which programs to allocate the funds. The Board also approved the 2007 budget.

Tom Olenick, EESF Secretary and Chairman of the Personnel Committee reported that the staff had been evaluated and the Board is happy with their progress. With the increase in the *Safe-T Rider* goal, the committee recommended hiring additional staff.

The annual general meeting was held the following day. The meeting was attended by the Board of Regents, Industry representatives, EESF members and the Foundation staff.

Several EESF of the Canadian Board of Directors attended the industry meeting. Board of Director Chairman, Ian Hambly (MAD Fixtures), Steve Husband (GAL Canada), Alison Whittaker (Escalator Handrail Company), and Vicky Barr-Humphries (BC Safety Authority) were in attendance.



Ian Hambly, *left* (EESFC Chairman & MAD Fixtures), Steve Husband (EESFC Board Member & GAL Canada) and Alison Whittaker (EESFC Board Member & Escalator Handrail Company) attended the 2007 EESF Industry Meeting.

Husband reported that the Canadian Foundation reached 78,553 children with the *Safe-T Rider* program which exceeded the goal of 45,000 children. He also reported that the Board was making plans to expand its

resources to increase funding for its educational program. Gordon Pattison of Alberta Elevating Devices and Amusement Rides Safety Association also attended the meeting.

The EESF Staff reported on the many successes in 2006 including that once again the Foundation exceeded its *Safe-T Rider* goal. During the 2005/2006 school year, the EESF sent material to 450,021 elementary school children. The Foundation also purchased ten new *Safe-T Rider* costumes which included a newly designed latex mask.

In 2006, EESF reached 11,734 seniors with the *A Safe Ride* program which increased the number of seniors that received the program by 89% between 2005 and 2006.

The staff also reported that 243 companies, groups and individuals donated \$302,239 to the 2006 Annual Campaign which exceeded the budgeted goal of \$269,000 by 12.36%. The 2006 Workplace campaign increased donations to \$47,194. Another \$60,000 was raised through special events.

The Board of Regents set goals for 2007, one of which was to increase the *Safe-T Rider* goal from 450,000 to 500,000 for the 2006/2007 school year. They also agreed to continue to develop the *A Safe Ride* program by expanding the area of solicitation to include casinos, transit authorities and retailers. The staff and a newly formed committee will revise and update the free Planning Guide for National Elevator Escalator Safety Awareness Week. The guide will feature new promotional materials as well as updated

information to assist each user planning a Safety Week celebration. The Board set the 2007 Annual Campaign goal at \$300,000, of which \$149,078 has already been paid or pledged to the Foundation.



Doug Witham *right* passes the EESF Chairman gavel to Kevin Moylan (MTA-NYCT).

Kevin Moylan (MTA- NYCT) was elected as the 2007 Board Chairman and has agreed to serve. Moylan has been on the Board since 2000. He is a member of the Elevator Conference of New York, the National Association of Elevator Safety Authorities International and is a Qualified Elevator Inspector. As Chairman Moylan said, “I intend to focus on increasing the scope of the Foundation’s programs. I have set a

long term goal for EESF to reach every second grader in North America.” In order to develop the resources needed to reach the goal, Moylan created several new committees during a brainstorming session. The committees formed were the Insurance Committee, the Property Management Committee, the Stadium/Arenas Committee, the Special Events Committee, the Workplace Campaign Committee, and the Industry Committee.

The Board of Regents also elected the nominated individuals as officers of the Board. Richard Vincierra was elected as Vice Chairman, Olenick was re-elected as Secretary and Hendrick was re-elected as Treasurer.

Four new members were elected to the EESF Board of Regents. Edward Chmielewski (Anderson Elevators), Mike Ryan (The Peelle Company), Robert Kazar (Canton Elevator) and Doug Gilman (Elite Elevator Cab Remodeling) were each elected to serve on the Board as alternates.

The Board meeting was followed by a Welcome Reception where two special awards were presented. Ricia Hendrick was recognized for 15 years



Left: Barbara Allen (EESF) presents Ricia Hendrick (Elevator World) an award for 15 years of service to the EESF Board of Regents.



Right: Allen presents Doug Witham with a plaque of appreciation for his service as Board of Regents’ Chairman.

of active membership on the Board of Regents and Witham was recognized for his service to the Foundation as the Board of Regents' Chairman. Witham will remain on the Board as the Canadian Liaison.

The closing event for the Annual Meeting was a Friday night Mardi Gras party and dinner. The event featured the Order of Inca Mardi Gras Parade followed by a steak dinner. An "open bar" was made possible at the party thanks to the sponsorship of AFD Industries, Canton Elevator, Inc., and The Peelle Company.

The EESF Annual Meeting is offered to its members each year with no registration fees. The Foundation is able to do this because of the generous contribution of the event sponsors.

This year's sponsors were GAL/Hollister Whitney, ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corporation, Alberta Elevating Devices Amusement Ride Safety Association, National Association of Elevator Contractors, Schindler Elevator Corporation and Elevator Advisors, Inc.



The Order of Incas Mardi Gras parade float showered party attendees with many beads and moon-pies.

The 2008 Annual Meeting will be held at the Sheraton Gateway Atlanta Airport Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, February 19 through 23. EESF members and contributors are encouraged to mark their calendars and plan to attend. A *Safe-T Rider* classroom presentation is being planned as part of the event.

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