



**INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION NEWSLETTER**

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**IRF News**

**Finances**

Treasurer Mike Marshall reports that all monies due to IRF for the congress at Zakopane have been collected and that almost all creditors have been paid. The good news is that IRF ended up with a small surplus. The following financial statement was prepared in mid-October:

**Income\***

Sponsorship funding	\$20,558.39
Congress fees	\$64,543.87
T-shirt and decal sales	\$179.85
Contact list sale	\$156.80
Donation for database	\$156.80
Donation	\$93.61
Bank interest	\$66.29
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Total income	\$85,755.61

**Expenditures\***

Expenses in Poland	\$59,650.62
• Hotel and meals	\$48,974.00
• Conference rooms, staff, equipment	\$5,328.00
• Field visits	\$3,186.00
• T-shirts**	\$950.00
• Conference materials	\$726.00
• Sundry expenses	\$486.62

Other expenses	\$26,067.70
Professional fees	\$10,040.20
Travel for speakers, etc.	\$5,762.45
Congress report	\$5,488.00
Clerical, telephone, fax, etc.	\$2,990.38
Bank charges	\$464.30
IRF flag	\$224.77
Sundry expenses	\$1,097.60
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Total expenses	\$85,718.32
Balance	\$37.29

\* Figures are calculated on an average exchange rate of \$1.568 to an English pound sterling.

\*\* Current stock valued at \$233.63 has not been included in this figure.

### **First World Congress Proceedings**

IRF is still collecting submissions for the upcoming publication of the congress proceedings. Almost all the papers have been received, which means that it will now be possible to go forward with production of the report. The U.S. Association of National Park Rangers has agreed to prepare and publish the proceedings, and the Federation has made \$4,500 available for the project (an amount contained in the above budget). This project has taken longer than expected due to the complexities of international coordination. With luck, the proceedings will be completed and printed later this winter.

### **First World Congress Evaluation**

Treasurer Mike Marshall received 57 replies to IRF's request for evaluation of the congress. More than 85% of the respondents gave the congress good to excellent ratings. Here's a general summary of the comments received on the responses:

- **Pluses:** The congress was stimulating, inspiring, amazing, simply wonderful, a lifetime experience; the venue was inspirational; the congress was professionally organized; the raft trip was brilliant; outstanding attention was paid to detail.
- **Minuses:** Travel problems with Eko-tourist; more attention is needed for non-English speakers; there's a need to focus on IRF and make decisions at the congress; not enough time on field visits; workshop sizes too big; too many evening meetings; the program lacked imagination.
- **Suggestions:** Better preparation for field visits; handouts from speakers would help overcome language difficulties; field visits should be linked to daily themes; a free afternoon is needed; a better balance is needed between rich and poor countries; more workshops should be held on case studies.
- **Speakers:** Most were good, some were excellent; informative, valuable, excellent.
- **Overall:** Most felt it was an excellent congress and are awaiting the next congress in Costa Rica or South Africa.

### **Second World Congress Site Selection**

Proposals for siting the next IRF world congress in Costa Rica or South Africa are due to chairman Gordon Miller this winter. A proposal questionnaire was prepared and sent to the Game Rangers Association of Africa and to the Association of National Park Rangers in the U.S. - the principal site investigators. Gordon and Rick Smith from the U.S. will be visiting Costa Rica in January to meet with Costa Rican rangers and examine proposed locations in that country. Gordon also hopes to be able to visit South Africa in March.

The original plan was to poll member nations on their preferences this winter, but the vote has now been postponed until April in order to afford time for these two site visits.

## **IRF Organization**

Gordon Miller has prepared the following proposal for the future organization and function of the Federation. Comments from all member associations are solicited! Please contact Gordon with your thoughts.

1. The world would be divided into continental-based regions as follows – North America, Central and South America, Africa, Australasia, Europe, Asia and remaining countries
2. IRF member associations in each region would elect an IRF council member to serve on the executive council.
3. The council member would act as regional chair on a regional council.
4. The executive council would include three non-voting members - the secretary, treasurer and editor.
5. Votes would be cast on the basis of one vote per IRF member association or one vote per 100 members within the member association, up to a maximum of 10 votes (associations with less than 100 members would be entitled to one vote).
6. The chair of IRF would be elected by the executive council, with each council member holding the number of votes appropriate to their regional associations.
7. The six council members would be elected for three-year terms. In order to avoid the possibility of the entire executive council turning over in a single election, two members would be elected for a one year term, two for two year terms and two for three year terms. This would establish a cycle wherein a third of the board would change each year, thereby assuring both continuity of experience and fresh ideas and perspectives.
8. The secretary, treasurer and editor could be elected on one, two or three-year cycles.
9. Countries without national associations would have non-voting representatives.

If member associations approve this model, Gordon suggests the following cycle for implementation: nominations in March, ballot of member associations in April, ballot results determined in June, election of a council chair in September.

Again, please submit your comments on these ideas to Gordon as soon as possible. He will then prepare and distribute a final proposal for formal polling by member associations.

## **Annual Reports**

As agreed in Zakopane, each member association will prepare a brief annual report and financial statement and submit it to the Federation. The reports will be compiled according to the following format and shared with all members.

1. Annual statement – A summary of national activities, a summary of international activities, a list of officers, any constitutional changes in the association during the preceding year, and numbers of voting and non-voting members
2. Financial statement – A copy of the most recent accounts of the association, a statement showing the number of members and the membership fee in each of four categories (full, associate, student, and other [please specify]). the total annual subscription income and a detail of the expenditure of 1% of this sum for the benefit of IRF, and the treasurer's name, address, telephone and telefax numbers.

All reports should be submitted by the end of December.

## **National Contacts**

Delegates at Zakopane enthusiastically endorsed a proposal to develop a system whereby rangers can contact their opposite numbers in other nations prior to making trips abroad in order to arrange travel, site visits, and so forth. England's Countryside Management Association has offered to set up a worldwide database. They are currently seeking funding from the government, and chances appear fairly good that they will receive some assistance. The database could be enlarged to also include information on skills, training opportunities and related matters.

## **Ethics**

At Zakopane, delegates agreed to establish standards and an international code of ethics for rangers, employing existing models. Cliff Chetwin from the U.S. and members of his group are making progress and have produced a first draft of the code. A final draft will be published in the next newsletter for consideration by the membership.

## **Translators Needed**

We are very much in need of volunteers to regularly translate this newsletter and other IRF documents from English into the world's many other languages - particularly Spanish, because of its great usage in South America. If you would like to help, please contact Bill Halainen (name and address appear at the end of the newsletter) as soon as possible.

## **Association News**

What has your association been doing? Other members would like to hear what's going in your ranger organization - to organize, to promote the ranger profession, to resolve resource conservation and education issues, etc. Please send a short summary.

## **Canada**

Parks Canada wardens have formed a national association, tentatively named the National Park Wardens' Association. At present, about 130 of Parks Canada's 450 wardens have joined the new organization. A newsletter has been completed which will soon be mailed to all members. It will be followed by a survey asking members questions on, among other things, allocation of dues, organizational structure, national meetings and affiliation with IRF. Responses will be due in January.

The interim chair of NPWA is Mark Halley, a warden from Leamington, Ontario. Clint Toews, a fellow warden from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and interim board member, traveled to the United States in November to meet with members of the U.S. Association of National Park Rangers at their annual gathering. The meetings were very positive, with both sides agreeing to work together on a variety of issues, including training, job sharing, standards, and a possible joint meeting some time within the next few years.

(Late news: NPWA is now a member of the International Ranger Federation! Their membership was sponsored by the U.S. ANPR).

## **Denmark**

Naturvejlederforeningen, the Danish ranger association, is working closely with Denmark's Nature and Forest Agency. One area is in training.

The Environmental Interpreter Service in Denmark costs about 27 million Danish kroner each year. Most of the budget comes from public funds - the pools and lotto. Every year, they pay for 20 new rangers to attend a seven week training course, which is given over a three year period. About 150 rangers have been educated to date.

The Nature and Forest Agency is about to come up with new courses for already educated rangers in the following areas:

- National and local environments
- How to find new target groups
- Interpretation and tourism

The latest initiative is a "future workshop" to investigate and develop new projects for interpretation techniques and similar undertakings.

Naturvejlederforeningen is arranging courses and seminars. The program for the upcoming seminar will include workshops on international cooperation. If you're interested in attending the session, which will be held from March 6th to March 8th, please contact Ida Marie Jensen (address and phone are on the attached IRF directory).

### **Romania**

The Association of Romanian Rangers (ARR) has just been formed and will have its first meeting this month.

### **Scotland/Iceland**

The Scottish Countryside Rangers Association and the Iceland Rangers Association have agreed to "twin" - that is, to establish a formal relationship between the two organizations - and will sign an agreement to this end in April. A model twinning agreement is available upon request to Gordon Miller.

### **Slovakia**

IRF chairman Gordon Miller has been working with Vlado Vancura on the establishment of a ranger association in Slovakia. Vlado has applied to act as a representative to IRF until such an association is formed. England's CMA has sponsored his membership.

### **South Africa**

The Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRA) will hold its annual meeting in Natal-KwaZulu between March 6th and 10th. The meeting is a large gathering of rangers and families from throughout the country. The theme for discussion this year will be the protection of threatened species in Africa.

Cape Vidal is part of the greater St. Lucia Wetland Park, some 200,000 hectares of bushveld, savannah, swampland, coastal dune forest, and the St. Lucia estuary (largest in Africa). The camp borders on the ocean. If you'd like to attend, GRA would like to know well in advance. Contact C. John Forrest (address and phone are on the attached IRF directory).

It is with regret that we have to report that GRA's Mike Landman, who was a delegate at Zakopane, is suffering from a brain tumor. Mike is a great fighter and heartfelt wishes for his full recovery go out to him from all his friends in the Federation.

### **United States**

The U.S. Association of National Park Rangers held its week-long annual meeting in Minnesota in November. The meeting was conducted during a period of political turmoil in the United States; shortly after it ended, the government - including most of the U.S. National Park Service - closed down for almost a week due to insufficiency of funds. The "rendezvous" was nonetheless a success, with members attending a variety of workshops, listening to presentations by numerous speakers, and revitalizing their sense of camaradery and purpose.

During the business meeting, ANPR's board of directors endorsed four recommendations made by the association's international affairs committee:

- To assist the Canadian park wardens (rangers) in establishing their association, and to explore possibilities for future collaboration, including a possible joint meeting in 1997.
- To determine criteria for twinning and appropriate countries to twin with.
- To continue to support formation of ranger associations in the Western hemisphere.
- To provide specific support necessary to ACORENA to ensure a viable IRF congress should Costa Rica be identified as a future site, and to continue on-going support to IRF in other business.

## **Resource Sharing**

Do you have something you can share with rangers in other nations? Do you have a need that rangers in other nations might be able to meet? Send your offerings or needs for the next newsletter.

- The Associazione Ligure Agenti Di Vigilanza Ambientale (ALAVA) in Italy will probably be able to donate three, second-hand, two-way, YAESU FT-23R VHF portable radios in need of communications equipment. They would like to donate them to rangers assigned to anti-poaching duties in an Asian or African country. Contact Augusto Atturo at ALAVA (address below).
- ALAVA is collecting all available information from foreign countries on wildlife law enforcement topics, including training, equipment, regulations, patrol techniques, anti-poaching programs and activities, wildlife forensics, etc. Augusto Atturo, ALAVA's chairman, is preparing a review of publications, agencies, and other useful addresses concerning law enforcement in natural resources protection. ALAVA would like to receive other publications about these matters, and is willing to share its training papers and other documentation with fellow IRF members involved in law enforcement duties elsewhere in the world.

## **Personal Notices**

If you or any member of your national association is looking for overseas training opportunities, plans on traveling abroad, or has any other need requiring broad contact with many rangers of the world, she or he can send along a short notice for inclusion in the next newsletter.

- Andrew Marwick, ranger in charge at Arthur's Seat State Park in Victoria, Australia, writes that rangers in his area are interested in exchanges with rangers throughout the world. If you'd like to engage in such exchanges, write to him at RMB 5528, Arthur's Seat, Victoria 3928, Australia.

## **Sales Items**

- We still have "IRF World Congress 1995" T-shirts available, but in small and medium sizes only. If you'd like a shirt, send a note to IRF, P.O. Box 37, Sterling, FX8 25L, Scotland. The cost is \$8 (U.S.) plus postage. Each shirt weighs about 200 grams, so calculate postage accordingly.
- We are also looking at the possibility of developing IRF pins. If you'd like to help or can give Gordon Miller an estimate of how much it would cost to produce them in your country, please send him a note. Quotes for pins should be for a round pin featuring the blue/green IRF logo with the words "International Ranger Federation" written around the outside.