

Minutes
Technical Standards Committee
January 17, 1997
Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott
Irving, Texas

Chairman: George Sabbi

Recording Secretary: Karl G. Ruling

In attendance: Anne Valentino, Vari-Lite, Inc.
Bill Groener, Barbizon Electric
Edward Paget, Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.
Frank Stewart, Associated Theatrical Contractors
Lori Rubinstein, ESTA
Mike Garl, James Thomas Engineering
Mike Wood, High End Systems
Mitch Hefter, Rosco/Entertainment Technology
Paul Vincent, Vincent Lighting Systems
Steve Carlson, Rosco/Entertainment Technology
Steve Terry, Production Arts Lighting

Visitors: Neil Huff, PRISM, Inc.
Richard Nix, Axxis

1. Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by George Sabbi at 1:07pm. George Sabbi explained the absences of Tony Douglas-Beveridge, Colin Waters, and Jay Glerum. Our agreement with PLASA is that Tony need not come for all the meetings. Colin was at the Performance Summit. Jay Glerum had sent notice that he would not attend this meeting, but had given no explanation.

2. Attendance and Membership

2.1 Introductions of those present

The group introduced themselves.

2.2 Requirements for membership

George Sabbi explained why group is slightly larger. The increased size of the TSC to allow us to reach out to groups we want to have involved and to pick up particularly good individuals. The requirements for membership are to attend meetings (four per year, schedule gone over) and do the work.

3. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Terry and Paget M/S. Unanimous

4. Call for patents and anti-trust statement

George Sabbi read the following statements:

ESTA intends to publish no standard that contains protected intellectual property, unless that property can be licensed by anyone for a reasonable fee. ESTA uses a process of open patent disclosures to implement this intent. ESTA does not conduct patent searches and does not warrant that its standards contain no protected intellectual property. In keeping with the open disclosure policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify the working group of the existence of a patent that might protect material in a standard being developed by the working group. You need not be the holder of the patent in order to notify the working group of its existence.

The ESTA Board of Directors and the leadership of this Technical Standards Committee will reject or nullify any actions that restrain trade. Anyone who feels that an action restraining trade is being or has been taken is requested to bring the matter to the attention of the chair immediately. Anyone who feels that actions in restraint of trade have been taken and not properly annulled is requested to notify the TSC chair or ESTA president immediately.

ESTA legal counsel has informed us that any member of this committee may be found individually liable for any action that restrains trade taken by this committee. An individual convicted of a violation of the Sherman Act may be fined as much as \$100,000 and be imprisoned for up to three years. An easy to read pamphlet describing restraint of trade is available from the Technical Standards Committee.

5. Approval of Agenda

Terry and Carlson, M/S. Unanimous. No additions.

6. Old Business

6.1 Financial Report

Frank Stewart handed out the final listing of TSC expenses for 96 and a recap of where money went. (Appended) Stewart explained that the working group funding requests from the last meeting are not in the new budget because no documentation was available to back the requests. Specific requests will be handled by dipping into the \$49,000 as yet unallocated.

FS would like to see working group funding put into the budget. He will develop a funding request form to be given out in June and returned by September.

KGR was directed by the chair to communicate to WG chairs that they need to request funding from TSC and provide an argument for their request.

6.1.1 Accounting of TSC Documents Sold and On-hand

FS offered two reports from David Rodger at Broadway Press (appended). Three thousand, one hundred, and forty seven F&S booklets have been sold for a gross sales of \$11,791.70,

on which we realized \$7,723.34. FS estimates that we have done better than break even on the book.

ST recommended that we run classified ads in LD and TCI. Mike Wood suggested an L+SI classified ad, too. Lori will contact Tony D-B about L+SI. Karl will make the LD and TCI contact.

6.1.2 1997 Contributions to Date

Lori presented a ledger sheet (appended).

6.1.3 The TSC's Fund Raising Responsibility

Bill Groener gave a history of TSC fund raising and applauded the successful raising of \$223,000 raised in three years. BG then suggested that people take individual responsibility for contacting a few of the larger companies.

The list of possible donors was divided as follows:

- Anne Valentino, Tomcat
- Anne Valentino, Vari-Lite
- Colin Waters, Four Star
- Colin Waters, TMB Associates
- Colin Waters, Wybron
- George Sabbi, Bash
- George Sabbi, PRG
- George Sabbi, GAM
- Mike Garl, James Thomas
- Mike Wood, High End Systems
- Mike Wood, Martin
- Mike Wood, Slick Systems
- Neil Huff, North American
- Neil Huff, PRISM Inc.
- Paul Vincent, NSI/Colortran
- Paul Vincent, USITT
- Paul Vincent, Vincent Lighting Systems
- Steve Carlson and Mitch Hefter, UL
- Steve Carlson, Rosco
- Steve Terry, ETC
- Steve Terry, Production Arts
- Steve Terry, Altman
- Steve Terry, Strand Lighting
- Ted Paget, JR Clancy
- Ted Paget, EDI

Bill Groener agreed to solicit funds from ESTA members who have given \$1,000 and less in the past.

Jack Seusse will be asked to develop plans to reach out to other groups such as trade organizations and unions, and to look into governmental funding.

6.2 Working Group Reports

6.2.1 Control Protocols

Steve Terry and Steve Carlson reported that the WG is working on a rough draft at 100Mb/s addendum to the Ethernet document. Developing a common protocol has been discussed, and Strand presented a memo describing what they do for outputting data. Strand will present a more formal document at the USITT meeting.

6.2.2 Fog and Smoke

KGR reported on the status of the glycol study. Two contracts have been let: one to HSE Consulting, and the other to The Cohen Group. Steve Terry recommended we sell the bibliography, which was accepted by the group.

6.2.2.1 Equity letter

The TSC recommends that the invitational letter to Actors Equity Association be a joint letter from the TSM and Larry Schoeneman on ESTA letterhead, and that it be persuasive. It should be sent by messenger. Copies of stuff about the standards program and something about ANSI accreditation should be included. The brochure sent to the Performance Summit was suggested as being appropriate.

6.2.3 Rigging

Mike Garl reported that the standard for trussing is progressing. A task group composed of USITT's rigging standards committee has been established with documents on counterweight and line-and-bag theatre rigging systems in progress. A loudspeaker enclosures and rigging task group has also been created. Garl expects that the truss and theatre systems documents will be voted into public review at the March meeting.

6.2.4 Photometrics

Ruling reported on the formation of the three task groups:

1. Development of a user-friendly "Nutrition Label" for luminaires
2. Drafting an explanation of IES Photometric procedure

3. Update LM-46-87 or other IES standards to address modern stage lighting instruments.

6.2.5 Safe Practices and Loss Control

Neil Huff says they will be reviewing safety checklists with the idea of reproducing them and providing them to the public. Possibly these could be sold, and would thus be a source of income for the TSP.

Nix is heading all three of the following task groups:

Testing and maintaining fog machines.

Training.

Certification.

Nix was directed to contact F&S Working Group regarding fog machines. The TSC decided that there is no issue at this time that would require the TSC to mediate between the two working groups.

Nix was also directed to contact Ken Vannice regarding certification. Any certification program ESTA develops at this time MUST involve him and USITT.

Sabbi challenged the SP&LC to give a formal presentation on certification at the LDI meeting in October.

6.3 ANSI Status Report

Ruling reported that the TSC is now an ANSI Accredited Standards Committee with E1 as its alphanumeric designation.

6.3.1 ANSI E1 committee name

"Safety and Compatibility of Entertainment Technical Equipment and Practices" was selected by the TSC.

Unanimous.

7. New Business

7.1 Digital Publishing of TSC Documents

KGR reported that Ed Prasser of ETC contacted him about the possibility of buying the rights to use the Ethernet RP on an ETC CDROM. Steve Terry volunteered to talk to Fred Foster about it. Tabled until Terry's report.

7.2 TSC Member's Working Group Assignments

George Sabbi gave history of TSC members being assigned to work groups. Mitch and Ted will be on the SP&LC working group.

7.3 ESTA's Standards Watch - Frequency of Publication

Ruling presented one issue of ANSI's Standards Action, from which he would draw his standards announcements. Tabled until Ruling sees if Standards Action is available in electronic format.

7.4 Permission for quotes from the *Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects* in James Moody's Concert Lighting book

Permission granted. Unanimous.

7.5 Standard format for ESTA standards and RPs

Ruling was directed to develop a succinct style guide of no more than four pages for working groups.

7.6 Formalized TSC Input to Editorial Content of *Protocol*

Steve Terry presented the argument for formalized TSC input into the editorial content of *Protocol*. Paul Vincent suggested that KGR be involved in planning for the future. Lori Rubinstein says we have been living from issue to issue. The TSC, as a Committee Of The Whole, shall send KGR 200 words on what would be good in Protocol. The TSC wants high quality, broader interest technical articles.

7.7 Kudos for companies supporting individuals on working groups

Paul Vincent will send letters to the bosses of working group members thanking them for their support of the members who are active in the TSP. Working group heads will identify who the bosses are. KGR will write the letter.

8. Other Business

Steve Terry questioned who plans the ESTA-sponsored technical sessions at trade shows. There should be some level of review. Paul Vincent will indicate to ESTA committee chairs that technical topics should be communicated to the TSC.

9. Schedule for future meetings

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|-----------|----------|------------------|---------------------|
| Wednesday | March 19 | 1:00pm - 6:00pm | TSC |
| Wednesday | March 19 | 7:00pm - 11:00pm | Rigging |
| Thursday | March 20 | 9:00am - 3:00pm | Safe Practices & LC |
| Thursday | March 20 | 7:00pm - 11:00pm | Fog and Smoke |
| Friday | March 21 | 9:00am - 6:00pm | Control Protocols |
| Saturday | March 22 | 1:00pm - 6:00pm | Photometrics |

10. Adjournment

Terry, moved. No objections. Adjourned at 6:15pm.