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### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF AMERICANS FOR EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT, INC. OCTOBER 17, 1999

A Board of Directors meeting was held on Sunday Oct. 17th, 1999, at the Delta Resort Hotel in Orlando, Florida, at 3 p.m. Directors George P. Graves, Wayne W. Schmidt and Richard N. Williams were present. The Directors were joined by Jody M. Litchford, Judge Emory A. Plitt, Jr. and Judith A. Ronzio, who are former Chairpersons of the Legal Officers Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Bernard J. Farber of the AELE staff also was present.

There was an open discussion of a broad range of policy issues. While there no changes in direction were recommended, there was a consensus to reaffirm the past practice of not attempting to duplicate the work of other organizations that focus on single issues (gun control, death penalty, etc.).

It was suggested that AELE could be helpful in formulating police policy by publicizing debates with a list of positive and negative points on an issue. Although that appears to be a neutral and detached approach, depending on the wording, a document can heavily influence decision-making.

Mr. Schmidt noted that a successful example of that technique is the AELE online bulletin, "Use-of-Force Tactics and Non-Lethal Weaponry. It discusses the strengths and weaknesses of various impact weapons, neck restraints, chemical agents, and electrical weapons, along with litigation examples arising from their use.

There was a discussion on the "militarisation of the police," and tactical responses, generated by the recent CATO report and conversations with Chief Gruber. See, "Warrior Cops: The Ominous Growth of Paramilitarism in American Police Depts.," 8-26-1999 at <[www.cato.org/pubs/briefs/bp-050es.html](http://www.cato.org/pubs/briefs/bp-050es.html)>.

No one expressed a desire for AELE to make a response to the militarisation issue at this time. Other issues, such as "Racial profiling / Driving While Black" are more important to monitor in the immediate future.

Mr. Schmidt proposed that AELE acquire the Corrections Legal Defense Quarterly, published by Judge Plitt since 1993. Directors Graves and Williams ratified that offer.

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Mr. Schmidt reported on the popularity of the website, <[www.aele.org](http://www.aele.org)>, and provided the following recent statistics:

Number of pages accessed in July: 73,829  
Number of user sessions in July: 16,434  
Average number of page accesses per day: 2,381  
Average number of user sessions per day: 530  
Average number of pages accessed per session: 4.49  
Average session length: 8:14 minutes per user

Total average sessions per day: 4,314 minutes (71.9 hours)  
Total average sessions per week: 30,198 min. (503.3 hours)

*Wayne W. Schmidt.*

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Wayne W. Schmidt  
Secretary  
November 4, 1999

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