



# P.I.P.E. LINE

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## P.I.P.E. Meeting Held

The annual P.I.P.E. Committee meeting was held on Friday, June 26, in Washington, D.C. All of our members, with the exception of Ray Fowler, John Schuessler, and Budd Hopkins, were present for this year's meeting. The first item on the agenda turned out to dominate the entire time allotted for the meeting, so it was the sole agenda item. That item was the new Media Policy Guidelines. This was approved and passed by the committee after a lengthy, heated discussion. On Sunday morning, at the Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted to approve the guidelines. Since this is the topic of another article in the P.I.P.E. Line, it will not be discussed again here.

Suffice it to say that the Media Policy Guidelines are a significant step toward professionalism and responsible public information. If our members do not take these seriously, it will be a clear indication of their lack of interest in professionalism and in upgrading our standards.

## Unfinished Agenda

Because of time constraints, as well as the lengthy discussion on the Media Policy Guidelines, a number of items were omitted from the planned agenda at our meeting in Wash. D.C.. Some of these included goals for this year; the continuation or elimination of National UFO Information Week; the compilation of a comprehensive package for State Dirs., and others. We will attempt to cover these via the P.I.P.E. Line and to hopefully resolve or achieve them in this manner.

## MJ-12 Controversy Heats Up

This month's MUFON Newsletter contains an article on the MJ-12 documents controversy. This particular disaster has resulted in some unfortunate consequences, and it is very important that we learn a valuable lesson from this. If at least we learn something out of all this, there will have been some positive residual effects from this.

From the day that the infamous documents were made public, some of the careful researchers warned of possible problems that would result from lack of authentication and from insufficient investigation.

However, the desire to believe overruled the need to be objective in several cases, and it was the researchers advising caution and objectivity who became the target of attack from those on the MJ-12 bandwagon.

After many inquiries, the careful researchers obtained responses which explained in great detail why the MJ-12 documents were not authentic. As mentioned in the Newsletter, the most recent of these is a disclaimer to be issued from now on by the National Archives in regard to the Cutler memo.

This information only reinforced the careful researchers' contention that the sweeping national publicizing of these documents was premature and unwise.

It further served to turn off the researchers to those among our ranks who use the guise of "scientific investigation" to pass off work which is not scientific.

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In the process MUFON has suffered a great loss with the resignation of researcher, author, and historian Barry Greenwood. With Barry's resignation, the P.I.P.E. Committee also suffers a great loss. Let us learn from this experience to set our priorities straight, and to ensure that all documents released to the media have first been authenticated. There are very few researchers around who are as knowledgeable and as dedicated to the UFO subject as Barry Greenwood, or who have acquired UFO archives anywhere near as complete or extensive as his. The loss of Barry is too costly a price to pay for the sake of some splashy publicity for unauthenticated documents.

## **MEDIA POLICY GUIDELINES**

### **MUST BE SUPPORTED**

With the abundance of UFO-related articles in the media at this time, it is extremely important that our Media Policy Guidelines be adhered to as strictly as possible. If any articles or editorials with inaccuracies or incorrect information on the UFO subject come to your attention, please forward copies to this office so that we can submit a correction or a letter to the editor in response to these.

A complete text of the Media Policy Guidelines will be published in an upcoming issue of the **MUFON UFO Journal**.

Since MUFON does not really have the resources or the funds or manpower to be a scientific investigative organization, probably our most important function is to offer correct public information on the UFO subject to the media, the public, the scientific community, and to govt. officials and Congress.

## **Selective Public Information**

### **More Effective?**

For three years we have been asking State Directors and

state organizations to support National UFO Info. Week by sponsoring a wide variety of activities. Over the past three years, the number of those participating has diminished greatly. This brings up the question: Is it worth the effort and funds that are required for National UFO Information Week? Or, is selective public information a better way to go about this? By this, we mean that we would concentrate our public info. efforts on those in positions to do some good for the subject. For instance, we could target the media, govt. officials, the academic community, scientists, and foundations or individuals with funds to grant for research the subject.

Your thoughts on this are needed and would be much appreciated, so that we may plan our public info. and public education program for the upcoming year. This was briefly brought up in Washington, but there was no feedback from our committee members.

## **Goals for 1987**

Goals for 1987-88 should be given some thought. In formulating our goals, we should keep in mind the current state of UFOlogy, with abduction mania, the MJ-12 controversy, the current media popularity of the subject, and the pop culture-type belief system that the subject

has been relegated to by some. Keeping all of this in mind, please let me know what you feel our goals for the upcoming year should be. Also, please be prompt, as I will include this list in the next issue of the **P.I.P.E. Line**.