

Business Meeting Notes from the AR TWS Chapter Meeting on 3-15-2024

Meeting Start: 9:00 am.

Committee Report from Luke Lewis:

- They are working on TWS Chapter membership, looking at South AR University as a new chapter.
- The goal is to get all the university wildlife programs involved with the TWS chapter.
- Ideas for networking: have a state map with all the schools in AR and contacts listed to streamline communications.
- Another goal is to get more agencies involved in the chapter as well.

Conservation Review Committee, Scott Yates & Virginie Rolland

- Virginie is stepping down this year; no one to speak from the committee at the meeting today.
- This committee is important for sending out support letters for bills to congress.
- We need 2 more members for this committee, Idun will send out an email for interested folks.

Education Committee – Blake Sasse

- We now have direct control as a chapter for Public Outreach for TWS.
- Outreach on website and Facebook was controlled by the main TWS Org, but has now given us access to post online as needed.
- Becky McPeak volunteered to put out more content on the sites.

Treasurer's Report – Matt Anderson

Starting Balance on 1/1/2024 = \$16,808

Revenues and Expenditures (-\$1,210 + Silent Auction earnings)

- Registration Fees: \$7,530
- Silent Auction Revenue: to be determined after this meeting
- Student Assistance estimate: - \$2,470 (26 students @ \$95 reimbursement each)
- Facility Rental and Food: -\$5,800
- Misc. expenses: - \$140

General Fund = \$5,922 (typing error on slideshow did not have correct amount)

Student Fund = 10,006 + Silent Auction proceeds

Student Professional Development Fund = \$1,729

Student Fund – Investment Strategy

- Move student professional development fund to student fund or general fund.

Options for investment strategies were covered on how to put the money from student fund to use.

Meeting NOTE : Big Thanks to AGFC for paying all student registration fees for this year's meeting!

Blake Sasse asked what the implication for taxes as an organization on investments would be?

Clint Johnson said as far as he knew there was no guidance or rules from the National Organization on this.

Blake: Motion to move / combine Student Professional Development Fund into/with the Student Fund.

Dr. Tom Nupp mentioned some reasons to not move the Student Development Fund.

Steven Fowler: add to the motion above to move Student Fund to a high interest savings account.
Motion was seconded.

Clint called vote: unanimous motion passed, all “aye”, no opposed

Discussion on what the time frame needs to be for when requests need to be submitted/ how early they need to be requested prior to events. Recommended – turn in requests at the beginning of January.

Dr. Nupp: Motion to make General Funds available for student activities or requests (such as travel, conclave, and TWS Meeting); clarified: make available the General Fund or investment of student fund available for at least \$1,200, Blake 2nd the motion.

Clint called vote: unanimous motion passed, all “aye”, no opposed

Audit: Dr. Nupp audited the books for the Chapter (has volunteered for the 2nd year on it, Thank you!). He recommended moving funds as stated earlier.

Dr. Nupp provided audit reports for the AR Chapter of TWS. He recommended to have a spreadsheet that combined all 3 accounts for easier auditing.

Treasurer, Matt Anderson, will inform board when the new accounts are created. Secretary, Idun Guenther, will email the chapter when this occurs.

Voting for new Board Members:

Member-at-Large: Doug Barron; Secretary: Ava Smith

Student Awards: 1st Place : Lauren Berry ; 2nd Place: Jessica Schmit; 3rd Place: Nathan Mansor

Student Chapter Reports:

Ashlyn (UAM, President): Has held outreach programs (fish fry), have “pelt quizzes”, working on quizzes for animal track ID. They have put out eastern bluebird nest boxes on campus, where they are monitoring 2 with cameras. They are trying to get more members so they can go to conclave.

Nathan Mansor (ATU): Chapter has assisted with fishing derbies (15 hrs), assisted with clean-ups (100 hrs) on Mt. Magazine. Over 189 hrs total for volunteering. Have around 80 hrs assisting AGFC with mussel and fish sampling. Held a Beast Feast and made \$6,300 at the even to fund raise for conclave. They currently have about 20 members.

Levi Horrell: Presented Award Plaque to Clint Johnson for serving as TWS Chapter President.

End of Business Meeting called 10:00 am.